

THE TITANIC: FROM A LIFEBOAT

A. Reading

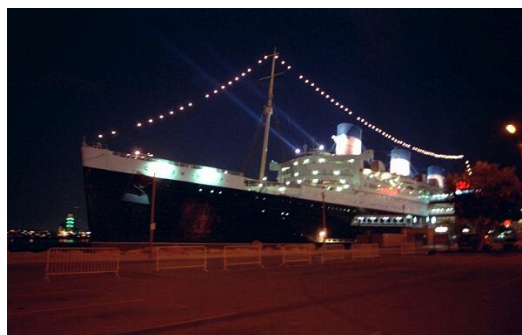
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The Titanic: From a Lifeboat

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The 'unsinkable' Titanic had only 1,178 life boat spaces for 2,224 people on board. A total of 1,513 lives were lost.

We did not begin to understand the situation till we were perhaps a mile or more away from the Titanic. Then we could see the rows of lights along the decks begin to slant gradually upward from the bow. Very slowly these lines of light begin to point downward at a greater and greater angle. The slant seemed to be greater about every quarter of an hour.



In a couple of hours, though, she began to go down more rapidly. Then the fearful sight began. The people in the ship were just beginning to realize how great their danger was. When the forward part of the ship dropped suddenly, there was a sudden rush of passengers on all decks towards the stern. It was like a wave. We could see the great black mass of people in the steerage sweeping to the rear part of the boat. We could make out the increasing excitement on board as the people rushing to and fro, caused the deck lights to disappear and reappear as they passed in front of them.

This panic went on for an hour. Suddenly the ship seemed to shout up out of the water and stand there perpendicularly. It stood upright in the water for four full minutes, then it began to slight gently downwards. Its speed increased as it went down head first, so that the stern shot down with a rush. The lights continued to burn until it sank. We could see the people packed densely in the stern till it was gone and we could hear their screaming a mile away. Gradually this became fainter and fainter and died away. Some of the lifeboats that had room for more might have gone to their rescue, but it would have meant that those who were in the water would have swarmed aboard and sunk her.

Taken from: *New Headway English Course Student's Book* (Pre-intermediate)

Exercise

1. When did the sinking of the Titanic happen?
2. How was the situation before Titanic sank?
3. How long did the panic go on?
4. What was it like when the people in the ship getting panic?
5. Tell us the chronology of the sinking of the Titanic!

B. Vocabulary

Prepositions and Idioms

Idioms are words or phrases that are used in a specific way. They have specific meanings. To be able to master correct use of prepositions and idioms in English is hard work. It needs a lot of memorization and practice. The list below contains only prepositions and idioms which are often used in communication. It is not a complete list. If you want to know more about prepositions and idioms, you can turn to other references. A good grammar book or a good dictionary will have a good coverage of English prepositions and idioms.

One-word Prepositions

| Group | Preposition | Example |
|-------------|------------------------------|---|
| Time | <i>at</i> (hour) | ■ The play will begin <u>at</u> 8.30. |
| | <i>on</i> (day, date) | ■ The leave <u>on</u> Monday, <u>on</u> 7th June. |
| | <i>in</i> (month, year) | ■ <u>In</u> a couple of hours, though, she began to go down more rapidly. |
| | <i>between</i> (two) | ■ The place is <u>between</u> two large rivers. |
| | <i>among</i> (more than two) | ■ Among the students, she is the best. |
| Place | <i>at</i> (point, spot) | ■ They live <u>at</u> 23 North Park Street. |
| | <i>on</i> (road, street) | ■ There are many stores <u>on</u> Broad Street. |
| | <i>in</i> (city, country) | ■ <u>In</u> this country, people are very friendly. |
| Cause | <i>from</i> | ■ The chairs are wet <u>from</u> the rain. |
| | <i>because of</i> | ■ The chairs are wet <u>because of</u> the rain. |
| Purpose | <i>for</i> | ■ This place is good <u>for</u> sport activities. |
| Means | <i>by</i> | ■ You can reach the place <u>by</u> bus. |
| Condition | <i>despite</i> | ■ Despite the rain, we depart. |
| | <i>in spite of</i> | ■ <u>In spite of</u> the rain, we depart. |
| Addition | <i>besides</i> | ■ <u>Besides</u> a cat, we have some birds. |
| Replacement | <i>instead of</i> | ■ We took a bus, <u>instead of</u> a train. |
| Exception | <i>except for</i> | ■ <u>Except for</u> that girl, all must go. |
| Example | <i>such as</i> | ■ We breed birds <u>such as</u> canaries. |
| Time limit | <i>from</i> | ■ She worked her <u>from</u> 1985. |
| | <i>to</i> | ■ She worked her <u>to</u> 1995. |
| | <i>from to</i> | ■ She worked her <u>from</u> 1985 <u>to</u> 1995. |



Other Prepositions

| Group | Preposition | Example |
|------------------|--|---|
| two-word | <i>regardless of</i> <i>due to, along with</i> <i>prior to, apart from</i> <i>owing to, next to</i> <i>subject to</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Regardless <u>of</u> the rain, we proceed. ■ The party was cancelled <u>due to</u> the storm. ■ <u>Prior to</u> departure, they said prayers. |
| three-word | <i>with reference to</i> <i>on account of</i> <i>on behalf of</i> <i>in accordance with</i> <i>in addition to</i> <i>in favor of</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ This was said <u>with reference to</u> good tests. ■ It was postponed <u>on account of</u> rain. ■ <u>On behalf of</u> the family, I thank you all. |
| verb + prep | <i>approve of, consist of</i> <i>result in (effect)</i> <i>result from (cause)</i> <i>laugh at, beware of</i> <i>wait for, crave for</i> <i>object to, insist on</i> <i>feed on, deal with</i> <i>vote for, turn into</i> <i>distinguish between</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ They finally <u>approved of</u> the proposal. ■ The food <u>consists of</u> rice and vegetables. ■ Much rain has <u>resulted in</u> broken roads. |
| adjective + prep | <i>capable of, eager for</i> <i>amazed at, puzzled at</i> <i>indebted to, tired of</i> <i>married to, bored with</i> <i>infested with</i> <i>interested in</i> <i>placed under</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ She is <u>capable of</u> taking over the post. ■ All of us were <u>eager for</u> the new pool. ■ We are <u>amazed at</u> what he can do. |

Idioms

| Group | Preposition | Example |
|-------|--|--|
| look | <i>look at, look for, look after, look out</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ <u>Look at</u> those children playing kickball! ■ I'm looking <u>for</u> my book I bought yesterday. ■ Would you <u>look after</u> our plants while ... ■ Look out! The water is hot. |
| put | <i>put on, put out, put off</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ <u>Put on</u> your hat. It's raining. ■ The firemen worked hard to <u>put out</u> the fire. ■ The meeting was <u>put off</u> because of the rain. |
| turn | <i>turn on, turn off, turn in, turn out,</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Sit down, <u>turn on</u> the TV, and relax. ■ <u>Turn off</u> the electricity before you go out. ■ You must <u>turn in</u> your assignment tomorrow. |
| run | <i>run out, run after, run into, run across</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ We stopped because we <u>ran out</u> of gas. ■ The man <u>ran after</u> the dog who <u>ran after</u> the cat. ■ I ran across an old friend when I went to town. |
| other | <i>call off, bring about, do with/without, hand in, make up, give up</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The meeting was <u>called off</u>, so we went home. ■ Our efforts <u>brought about</u> some result. ■ You must <u>hand in</u> your assignment tomorrow. |

Exercise

Use the correct forms of the prepositions or prepositional constructions.

1. It's getting dark; please, turn (on/off) the lights.
2. She's been looking (at/for) a new job for quite some time now.
3. Look (out/after)! There is a big hole in front of you.
4. He arrived (at/on/in) three o'clock this afternoon. He will be leaving (at/on/in) Saturday morning.
5. There are four 20-watt neon lights (at/on/in) the ceiling and two 10-watt bulbs (at/on/in) the walls.
6. They promised to give us new books. It turned (on/off/out) to be a bluff.
7. We were interested (in/with/by) the new exhibits displayed during the promotion days.
8. Apart (of/from/out) the broken handle, the camera is working perfectly.
9. (On, In) behalf (by/of) the new members, I would like to thank everybody for receiving us warmly.
10. The group consists (of/from) eight members.
11. There is a difference (among/between) the two species of animals.
12. I think that everybody is capable (for/of) taking the role as leader in this class.
13. We laughed a lot (for/at/with) his jokes during the party.
14. Many people were bored (at/with) the program; so they were trying something different.
15. The workers insisted (on/for/in) having a 200 percent salary raise.

C. Grammar

Adjectives and Adverbs

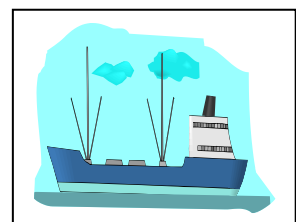
Adjectives

Do you remember what an adjective is? You can refer to the definition in the previous section. Adjectives are used to modify a noun or pronoun. Several types of adjectives mentioned in the previous section can be classified into two types: descriptive adjectives and limiting adjectives (also known as determiners).

For the time being, our discussion is focused on descriptive adjectives. A descriptive adjective points out a quality of the person, thing or idea it describes. It tells us what kind of person, thing or idea is referred to.

Many descriptive adjectives have no special endings (suffixes): *old, young, large, short, long, safe, white, hard, soft, bad, rich, hot, cold*. However, other descriptive adjectives have endings which show that the words are adjectives. Here are the main endings:

- ful: wonderful, beautiful, forgetful
- less: thoughtless, worthless, lawless
- able: acceptable, likeable, charitable
- ible: edible, terrible, irresistible
- en: golden, woollen, wooden
- ous: glorious, victorious, mischievous
- al: musical, national, natural
- ive: imaginative, destructive, descriptive
- ic: heroic, scientific, poetic
- ish: childish, selfish, English
- ary: customary, secondary, imaginary
- some: handsome, quarrelsome, lonesome
- y: silky, shady, smoky
- ly: friendly, manly, lonely



Adverbs

We can identify different functions of adverbs. Adverbs can be used to indicate:

- when something happens or happened (Adverbs of Time)
- how frequently some happens or happened (Adverbs of Frequency)
- where or in what direction an action occurs or occurred (Adverbs of Place)
- to what extent an action occurs or occurred (Adverbs of Degree)
- how something is or was done (Adverbs of Manner)
- in what order things occur (Adverbs of Sequence)
- the result of an action (Adverbs of Result)
- an idea which is either in contrast to a preceding one or different from the expected one (Adverb of Contrast)

This time our discussion on adverbs is limited to adverbs of manner. They are commonly used to modify verbs. We need to pay a special attention to adverbs of manner because they are closely related to descriptive adjectives in terms of their formation.

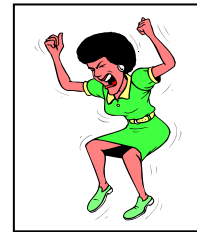
Most adverbs of manner are formed from descriptive adjectives by the addition of the suffix *-ly*. Look at the following examples:

Adjectives

bad
interesting
quick
slow
happy
true

Adverbs

badly
interestingly
quickly
slowly
happily
truly



However, there are exceptions.

- a. Some adverbs have exactly the same form as their corresponding adjectives.

Adjectives

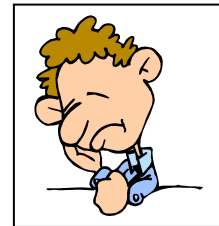
early
daily
A/an monthly affair.
weekly
hourly
yearly

a **fast** runner
a **late** bus
a **low** position
a **hard** control
a **near** miss

Adverbs

early
daily
Go monthly
weekly
hourly
yearly

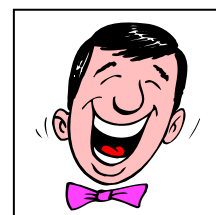
run **fast**
come **late**
hang **low**
study **hard**
come **near**



- b. There are a few words ending in *-ly* which are adjectives and not adverbs.

brotherly kindness
deadly weapon
earthly comfort
friendly person
heavenly bodies

leisurely pace
lovely person
lively dance
scholarly lady



- c. The adverbs of *good* is *well*.

a **good** runner

runs **well**

- d. Some adverbs have two forms, i.e. the form ending in *-ly* and the form that is the same as the corresponding adjectives. Normally the two forms have different meanings.

study **hard** (diligently)
hardly ever study (almost never)
hardly any money (almost none)
 come **late** (opposite of early)
 haven't done anything **lately** (recently)

fall **near** (opposite of far)
nearly fall (almost)

to be **pretty** sure (quite)
 to smile **prettily** (in an attractive manner)

Exercise

Now complete the following sentences with either adjectives or adverbs from the following list.

| | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| careful/carefully | financial/financially | nervous/nervously | special/specially |
| complete/completely | fluent/fluently | quick/quickly | perfect/perfectly |
| continuous/continuously | happy/happily | | |

- Our holiday was too short. The time passed very ...
- Tom does not take risks when he is driving, He is always
- Sue works ...She never seems to stop.
- Alice and Sean are very ...married.
- Monica's English is very ...although she makes quite a lot of mistakes.
- I cooked this meal ...for you, so I hope you like it.
- Everything was very quiet. There was ...silence.
- I tried on the shoes and they fitted me
- Do you usually feel ...before examination?
- I would like to buy a car but it is ...impossible for me at the moment.

