



Finding what follows: Patterns in verbs, adjectives, and prepositions

Building your vocabulary isn't about learning one word at a time—the trick is to learn patterns of words. An online dictionary can show you the prepositions that follow verbs and adjectives. You can see if verbs are followed by a verb in the *-ing* or the infinitive form. Do the activities and discover the patterns of the English language!

Activity 1

What are the prepositions that follow *generous* and *long*? Look at these screenshots from the Macmillan online dictionary and identify the pattern.



generous _____, _____, _____,



long _____

Activity 2

Complete these sentences with the correct prepositions, and guess if you are not certain. Then check your answers in the Macmillan online dictionary.

а	Some children were sobbing and	their mothers.					
b	People worry more	their health tha	n they used to.				
С	The owner is prevented by law _	king any major changes					
d	We used to argue	who should drive	Э.				
е	I object paying that much for milk.						
f	We finally succeeded	getting Mario	rie un the stairs				

VOCABULARY BUILDERS

interested



Activity 3

plunge

Complete each sentence with the correct preposition from the box and your own information. Use the Macmillan online dictionary to check the prepositions that follow each adjective.

blog

in

	about	at	for	from	in	of	on	wi	th			
a	You sho	You should be tolerant of other people's opinions										
b	l've alwa	avs been	interested									
	I've always been interested											
С	I'm very	fond										
d	My cour	ntry is fan	nous	_								
e	l'm very	good										
												
f	If you work as a political correspondent, you need to be familiar											
g	I usually feel guilty											
Αd	ctivity 4	,										
				ith the infi acmillan o				f the vo	erb	shown in brackets.		
	-					-		contact)) the	manufacturer directly.		
b	He's cor	nsidering		(bu	y) a used	d car.						
С	The con	nmittee de	ecided una	animously _		(accept) t	the offe	r.			
d	I don't e	I don't enjoy (go) on holiday as much as I used to.										
е	She closed her eyes and pretended (be) asleep.											
f	I wouldr	't mind h	im	(go) if he	helped a	round the	e house	Э.			
g	I expect		(9	jet) paid or	time.							
h	She had	l just finis	hed		(dress)	the childr	en when	the ph	one	rang.		
i	I do thin	k you sho	ould have o	offered		(hel	p).					