ENGLISH COMPLEX PREPOSITIONS
OF THE PREPOSITIONAL PHRASE TYPE

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1. Preliminaries. The aim of the present paper is to draw attention to the existence of an enormous amount of word combinations with prepositional function, whether established, full-fledged prepositions, or occasional, ad hoc combinations used in this way. Judging from the situation in English and Czech, it seems that for various reasons an increase in these secondary (semi-)prepositions is typical of modern languages. Accordingly the problem arises of choosing a suitable range of reliable criteria to sort out the potential prepositional sequences in terms of their respective degree of prepositionalization and to provide a tentative description of this type of preposition, i.e. to outline their formal, functional and semantic properties. While the previous studies analyzed complex prepositions using a limited sample (cf. 130 items in Quirk, Mulholland, 1964), the paper attempts to be as representative as possible and presents a collection of more than 400 potential complex prepositions in English. However, the sheer numbers are a challenge that forces certain restrictions in scope and strategy. Rather than attempting a delicate theoretical analysis the treatment will address the basic task of identifying combinations with prepositional function, their semantic categories and the prevailing formal patterns. In this respect the paper is a rather tentative probe staking out the land to be explored more thoroughly in future. Before presenting the collection of complex prepositions, a brief overview of the relevant facts will be made, covering the general characteristics of the type of preposition described, the criteria of prepositionality and some of the semantic classifications of complex prepositions offered in literature.

2. General characteristics. From a formal point of view prepositions can be divided into simple (consisting of a single word) and complex (consisting of two and more words). The group of potential complex prepositions gathered for the purposes of this study consists of a subset of complex prepositions: sequences of three and more words – prep1 + complement + prep2 – for which the name ‘complex preposition of the prepositional phrase type’, or the PP preposition for short, is used. The term PP preposition, in contradistinction to the designation used in CGEL
(a three-word sequence or preposition) (1985, p. 669), was adopted to allow for four-
word sequences as well (i.e., those including the article).

PP prepositions were chosen for study since they appear to be the most productive
and numerous type of complex prepositions. Apparently, this is due to the fact that
they are an open-ended category, forming a cline with genuine PP prepositions at one
end and free ad hoc prepositional phrases at the other. The abundance of this type is
paralleled by the situation in the Czech language where complex prepositions of this
type are also by far the most numerous type (see Kroupová, 1985; Čermák, 1996).
The gradient character of these sequences requires, however, that reasonably reliable
criteria should be used in their determination.

In terms of the phrase-structure role, the complex preposition, like simple
prepositions, functions as head to the noun phrase which complements it. The
prepositional complement again may be a noun, pronoun (except for the subjective
form of the personal pronoun) or their syntactic equivalent (in case of fire/that
happening.../two), a nominal clause (in spite of what has happened), or an -ing clause
(with a view to being able to buy a house) – with the exception of that-clause and
infinitive clause. However, unlike simple prepositions, PP prepositions appear to be
somewhat limited in their syntactic functions and related semantic range. In general,
the syntactic functions of prepositional phrases with simple-preposition heads include
those of 1) adverbial (adjunct, disjunct, conjunct), 2) postmodifier and 3)
complementation, i.e. object complementation of verbs and adjectives (to depend/be
dependent on), but also subject complementation of copular verbs (The object is of
great value). On the other hand, owing to specific semantics, the PP prepositions
appear to cluster in adverbial and postmodifying functions (By way of caution, he told
me the difficulties I would face; In contrast to last year, this one has been a success;
a roadway in the process of construction).

2.1. Criteria of prepositionality. When formulating the criteria for distinguishing
complex prepositions from free phrases, two sources served as an inspiration, CGEL
(chap. 9, Prepositions and prepositional phrases) and Kroupová’s study. In CGEL (pp.
671–2), nine indicators are given of ‘syntactic separateness or cohesiveness’. They
test to what extent a given phrase (presumed prepositional head-complement
sequence) is or is not a separable and variable unit in terms of syntax and meaning (in
spite of vs. on the shelf by). The order and presentation of the criteria have been
somewhat changed here to set apart head and complement:

- head sequence (prep1-noun complement-prep2):
  1. variability of prep1 (*for spite of vs. under the shelf by the door)
  2. variability of prep2 (*in spite for vs. on the shelf at the door)
  3. variability of determiner, i.e. in/definite, zero article (*in a/the spite of vs. on
   a/the shelf by)
  4. variability of sg/pl form (*in spites of vs. on the shelves by)
  5. replaceability of complement by semantically related noun (*in malice of vs.
   on the ledge by)
6. premodification of noun complement (*in evident spite of vs. on the lower shelf by)

- complement sequence (prep2-complement noun):
  7. replaceability by possessive (*in its spite [=of the result] vs. on its surface [= of the door])
  8. replaceability by demonstrative (*in that spite vs. on that shelf)
  9. omissibility (*in spite vs. on the shelf)

As a tenth indicator, the **lexical criterion of synonymy with a simple preposition** is mentioned. It is then argued that the potential candidates form a continuum between these two poles, 'showing progressively less of the character of preposition and more of the character of a free syntactic construction': *in quest/search of; in/by/through comparison with; in (the) defence of, in her defence, in defence/support of, in keen/stubborn/bold defence of*. To these criteria one more might be added – coalescence of prep1 and its complement, viz. *in the stead of > in stead of > instead of* – and the above criterion of determiner variability may be reformulated as involving the variability or absence of the determiner (the latter being an indicator of the advanced idiomatization of the sequence). The interplay of these nine criteria (no single one appears to be diagnostic on its own) is excellently analyzed by Quirk, Mulholland (1964) in terms of matrix classification resulting in five classes. The authors follow up this classification (of diminishing grammatical status from Class I to Class V) with a cross-classification based on the verb-predication relationship between NP1 and NP2 including seven types, e.g. ‘objective’ (*in answer to your question*), ‘subjective’ (*to the accompaniment of music*) or ‘factive equational’ (*with the aim of comparing, i.e., the aim is to compare*). This latter classification, in turn, is cut across by a semantic one.

Kroupová's study (1985), later incorporated in *Mluvnice češtiny* ([Czech Grammar], vol. 2, 1986) in condensed form, examines secondary prepositions in contemporary standard Czech. Her secondary prepositions include both simple marginal prepositions and complex prepositions such as defined in *CGEL*. Allowing for the typological differences between Czech and English and differences in grammatical terminology, the similarities in the type and character of complex prepositions are many and, consequently, the criteria Kroupová (1985, 33–36) uses are largely applicable in English too. She mentions the following criteria for secondary prepositions:

**Syntactic:** a) the preposition relates dominating and dominated clause elements (NP-prep-NP; VP-prep-NP); b) the preposition combines with a particular case of the noun complement (*to stand in the middle of the room* [genitive] vs. *to stand in the middle); c) relational function predominates over semantic function; d) the preposition cannot function as a clause element or an independent sentence (*to put A in place of B* vs. *to hold A in place*); e) in the NP1-Prep-NP2 sequence the preposition and NP2 are not interchangeable; f) the relationship between the preposition and the agent/bearer of action in the verb is removed (*The charge is $5 excluding VAT*); g) the
preposition cannot be further modified (only intensified: *at the very beginning of the month*, though compare: *The aim is to explain the mysteries under the (clever) pretext of a narrative*); the new word-class function usually arises in connection with atypical syntactic function (e.g. adverbial function of some temporal nouns resulting in their use as purely relational items). **Morphological:** a) frozenness of form (uninflectedness); b) non-interchangeability and inseparability of components within complex prepositional expressions (with a tendency to become idiomatic units); c) coalescence of the components into one unit with a meaning different from that of each component. **Semantic** – primary criteria: a) the expression acquires meaning only when complemented (*at the very beginning of the month*); b) the original meaning of the item functioning as preposition is abstract or it is deconcretized, and contains an element of relationality (*in the sense, in the area of*); c) synonymy with primary or stabilized secondary prepositions, or opposition to them (*excluding/without vs. including/inclusive of*); secondary criteria: a) loss of the original lexical meaning (*thanks to – likewise used with complements expressing a negative cause: the striker will sit out three matches thanks to his sending-off at Newcastle*); b) possibility of transformation (*They lost the match because their defence was not good > Owing to their bad defence they lost the match*). Kroupová also mentions the necessary conditions for prepositionalization. She argues that the context a) may enforce prepositional interpretation (cf. *We have particular strength in the area of Caribbean history and culture*, where the original locative prepositional noun phrase acquires an abstract meaning); b) need not enforce such interpretation, nor exclude it; c) may definitely preclude prepositional interpretation (*The measure is in agreement with facts > The measure agrees with facts*).

2.2. **Semantic classification.** Prepositional meanings can be described at various levels of abstraction. An example of a very general classification is Čermák’s (1996, 38–41), which divides relational meanings into seven categories subsuming the more specific ones: 1. Identification (vicariousness, comparison to a model, etc.); 2. Classification (class membership, inclusion, exclusion); 3. Qualification (determination of quality, origin, version, aim, purpose, etc.); 4. Specification of action (means, manner, respect, source, result, participation, etc.); 5. Causality (cause, purpose, condition, concession); 6. Localization (location in place); 7. Temporalization (location in time).

Quite a detailed description of prepositional meanings, which was taken as a starting point when classifying the present sample of PP prepositions, is found in *CGEL* (9.14–59, 9.60–63). In cases where the exact scope of the category might not be clear, examples of prepositions are added: 1. **adverbial functions of PPs:** 1. Space (concrete: dimension, positive/negative position and destination, source or negative position, relative position, space, relative destination, passage, direction, orientation, resultative, pervasive; accompanying circumstance: *over a glass of wine*; abstract or metaphorical); 2. Time; 3. Cause/purpose spectrum: cause, reason, motive (*because of, for, from, out of, on account of*); purpose, intended destination (*for*); intended/actual recipient (*for, to, at*); goal, target (*at, to*); source, origin (*from*);
4. Means/agentive spectrum: manner (in ... manner, like, with, by); means, instrument (by, with, without); instrument, agentive (with, by, through); stimulus (alarmed at, by); 5. Accompaniment (comitative function: with); 6. Support and opposition (for, with, against); 7. Having (of, with, without); 8. Concession (in spite of, despite, with all, for all); 9. Respect (with reference to, with regard to, as for); 10. Exception (except for, excepting, apart from, aside from, excluding); 11. Addition (besides, as well as, in addition to); II. PPs as complements: 1. Subject matter (about, on, over, on the subject of, in connection with, concerning, of); 2. Material, ingredient (with, of, out of); 3. Substance (from); 4. Standard (quite big for, good at); 5. Reaction (surprised/glad/laugh/stare/aim at, to one's delight).

A third classification consulted is that offered by Kroupová in *Mluvnice češtiny* (1986, 210–212). Her account of the meanings of secondary prepositions is valuable for the wealth and diversity of material to which parallels in English can mostly be found: 1. Location; 2. Time; 3. Cause, reason, consequence (because of, on account of); 4. Purpose (for the purposes of); 5. Concession (in spite of); 6. Condition (in case of); 7. Means (by means of, on the basis of) and manner (manner proper: in the form of; comparison/similarity: in comparison with; cooperation: in cooperation with); 8. Respect (direct: in terms of; respect proper: with regard to; confrontation/comparison: in contrast to; observation: in the sense of; consideration: in consideration of, in the light of, dis/agreement: in accordance with; connection: in connection with; exclusion: without regard to); 9. Vicariousness, replacement (in the name of); 10. Benefit, detriment (on behalf of, at the expense of); 11. Exclusion (with the exclusion of); 12. Inclusion (including); 13. Addition (apart from); 14. Abstract delimitation, demarcation (scope: in the realm of; belonging: within the ranks of; position: in the forefront of; state: on top of; duration: as of); 15. Originator, initiator (at the hands of, on the part of); 16. Direct addressee; 17. Identification, qualification (under the name of, from the position of); 18. Causal determination; 19. Possession (in the hands of).

There are a number of aspects in each of the classifications deserving close analysis. Apart from points of contact and overlaps there are also many question marks: e.g., should abstract spatial and temporal relations be treated together with the respective concrete relations or separately? what exactly is the difference between Kroupová's manner-comparison and confrontation-comparison? etc.

checked for their actual use in context and occasionally supplemented from fiction and journalistic texts.

3.1. Criteria of inclusion. Since both sets of the prepositionality criteria offered by CGEL and Kroupová, respectively, provide for a prepositional continuum, it was necessary to find a cut-off point beyond which a given PP sequence would be rejected. Basically, such a continuum involves three states: (1) an established preposition (lexicalized, typically appearing in dictionaries); (2) a PP sequence interchangeable with, i.e. functioning as, a recognized preposition; (3) a free phrase superficially reminiscent of a complex preposition whose function in the sentence, however, precludes prepositional interpretation (cf. Kroupová’s necessary conditions for prepositionality above).

Ideally, only cases of the first type should figure in the sample. It is difficult, however, if not impossible to ascertain whether a given sequence has reached the final stage of lexicalization or not. What objective indicators do we have? Inclusion in a dictionary? There are limits to the extent dictionaries can reflect the actual state of affairs in a language, and sometimes it may take a long time before a new lexical unit finds its way into a dictionary. Frequent occurrence in speech or in a corpus? How frequent, and in how large a corpus, must a sequence be to qualify, especially when monosemic? It might seem that inclusion of units of the second type will resolve the problem neatly, and take care of the latent true prepositions. However, these phrases necessarily include not only prepositions ‘in the making’, but also many ‘free’ sequences whose prepositional function is due to contextual semantic factors only, and may never enter the process of prepositionalization at all. Also, there will be a certain amount of cases of an indeterminate nature somewhere between a preposition-like unit and a free combination.

After considering the options, it was decided to adopt a liberal approach and include phrases of both the first and the second type in the sample. The practical advantage is that this made the checking of 400-odd potential prepositional expressions easier and, more important, feasible (the decisions can be made without reference to other sources). Also, this approach will arguably increase the chances of capturing the existing trends in the formation of new prepositions. In principle, the essential criteria following from this approach are: (a) their synonymy and replaceability with a lexicalized primary or secondary preposition (a positive test of prepositional function); (b) inability to function as an independent clause element identifiable as such by a question test (a negative criterion of grammatical, relational function). Because of the large amount of phrases to be tested no systematic attempt was made to determine the degree of prepositionality in the phrases though in problematic cases some additional tests were used (such as the replacement of the presumed prepositional complement with a demonstrative or possessive, omission of the complement, etc.).

Although these criteria cannot distinguish between a lexicalized preposition and a phrase with contextual prepositional function (i.e., potential complex preposition),
the resultant sample does suggest the way in which this particular subclass of complex prepositions is expanding at present. It has to be admitted that sifting through these phrases is a daunting task in which it is easy to go wrong and that the result is accordingly far from perfect. In some cases the collector’s enthusiasm may have prevailed over the strict application of the criteria.

3.2. Semantic classification. Classification of prepositional phrases into semantic categories is closely related to the determination of prepositional status. The key to the classification of the complex prepositional sequences is the character of the substitutive primary preposition (or recognized secondary preposition) and of course the meaning of the whole phrase. In prepositional phrases introducing an adjunct (but also other functions), a further indicator is the question test and/or paraphrase by a clause.

In keeping with the semantic roles of adverbials, the phrasal prepositions can be divided into six large groups, place, time, contingency, process and respect prepositions, and one small, degree. Unlike place and time prepositions, the other three groups are further subdivided into distinct categories: contingency (cause-reason, concession, condition, purpose-goal), process (manner, means-agency, guidance, participation-cooperation, agreement, disagreement-contrast), respect (respect/disregard, support, connection). The seventh group called delimitation subsumes a heterogeneous mixture of specific categories: addition/exclusion, benefit, detriment, originator, possession, replacement, subject matter and, finally, range and identification. The last two were singled out for their appositive nature, i.e., the noun within the PP preposition is superordinate to the actual noun complement and can usually be replaced with the initial primary preposition (at a distance of 100 yds > at 100 yds). Categories designated by two terms connected by a hyphen represent closely related coalescent meanings, terms separated by a virgule stand for a category combining antonymous units. There is no stylistic or variety labelling as the necessary information was not available.

To avoid extensive hierarchical arrangement and simplify search for a specific field of meaning, the twenty-five categories are presented alphabetically regardless of the larger groupings in the following order: addition/exclusion, agreement, benefit, cause-reason, concession, condition, connection, degree, detriment, disagreement-contrast, guidance, identification, manner, means-agency, originator, participation-cooperation, place, possession, purpose-goal, range, replacement, respect/disregard, subject matter, support, time. Prepositions within the categories are alphabetized according to the noun. In keeping with the chief aim of the study, i.e. to collect as much material as possible for subsequent research and, hopefully, more refined analysis, the complete sample of semantically classified sequences, each one matched with an illustrative sentence, is given in Appendix (together with their alphabetical list according to the noun).

3.3. Results. Analysis of the collection of the potential complex prepositions resulted in the final sample which consists of 444 prepositional units. In many cases
these units subsume variant forms, i.e., in the basic prep1-NP-prep2 pattern, there may be two or more alternative prepositions in both prep1 and prep2 positions (on/upon/under pain of; at odds with/over), the NP may occur with a definite, indefinite or zero article and in singular or plural forms, modified or unmodified. However, there is no unit alternating in both prep1 and prep2. The variants are subsumed under a single prepositional lexeme because the alternating prepositions are synonymous. As was mentioned above, stylistic and variety differences as well as the temporal dimension (a number of the sequence, it appears, have been around for centuries) are disregarded as their systematic specification was impossible.

Table 1 below summarizes the absolute figures for each category. It shows two things: (a) the 444 prepositional units appear 473 times in these categories, and (b) the most frequent semantic categories – place, cause-reason, range, time, purpose-goal and respect/disregard – are representative of all six large groupings of prepositions. It should be pointed out that two of the categories – cause-reason and purpose-goal – are closely related and that the category called range has close links to the place and time categories:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 1 Frequency of semantic categories</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>place</td>
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<tr>
<td>cause-reason</td>
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<tr>
<td>range</td>
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<tr>
<td>time</td>
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<td>purpose-goal</td>
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<td>respect/disregard</td>
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<td>addition/exclusion</td>
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<td>benefit</td>
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<td>degree</td>
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For this reason the semantic distribution of the prepositional units is better reflected when the 25 categories are joined under their respective larger grouping:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 2 Frequency of semantic groupings of categories</th>
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<tr>
<td>process</td>
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<td>delimitation</td>
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<tr>
<td>contingency</td>
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<tr>
<td>place</td>
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<tr>
<td>time</td>
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<tr>
<td>respect</td>
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<td>degree</td>
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<td>total</td>
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</table>

But even these figures provide only general tendencies rather than give a precise picture, on account of the semantic fuzziness of the categories. There is a very thin line between the cause-reason and purpose-goal categories in some cases, and some of the prepositional sequences of time are very close to cause and place phrases. The
heterogeneous group called delimitation, in particular, includes categories wherein
the PP prepositions could, ultimately, be related to other categories – viz. the range
sequences assignable to the place and time categories (in the abstract but sometimes
even the concrete sense).

Still, the overall proportion of the five largest groups to one another will not change
dramatically even should the delimitation group be partly dissolved among the others
(or disregarded because of its heterogeneity). The process group – broadly describing
the manner in which an action takes place – is definitely the largest, closely followed
by the contingency group, expressing various modes of causation. The third group is
that of place relations, while the remaining two are of roughly the same size.

It would be logical to interpret the relevance of these proportions with reference to
the closed-class simple or primary prepositions. However, owing to the large
polysemy of primary prepositions (cf. the 15 senses for *in* and 17 for *of* given in
OALD), which obscures their semantic distribution, no statistics of this type are
available for them. Yet of the five groups the most significant is the contingency one
whose representation among the primary simple prepositions can, even by a rough
estimate, hardly be as substantial as it is in this sample.

This surfeit of contingency strings in particular seems to correspond to the
explanations offered for the proliferation of secondary complex prepositions, namely
the increasing stylistic differentiation within language combined with the need for the
accurate expression of abstract relations, a tendency described as the
‘intellectualization’ of language. While the increase in contingency prepositions may
be interpreted as resulting in more emphasis on the causal structure of the utterance
and thus as contributing to greater internal cohesion of the text, the increase in
cumstantial prepositions, i.e. those of process, place and time, appears to be
dictated by the desire for greater explicitness of the relations expressed. In some cases
the specific meaning of the PP sequence seems to entail curtailment in combinability.
Prepositions of the respect group, on the other hand, highlight the element they
introduce and thereby invest it with greater prominence and importance.

The explicitness due to semantic redundancy (cf. *within the bounds of reason* and
*within reason*, where *within* = *bounds*) can be documented by the fact that many of
these prepositional sequences are replaceable by a simple primary preposition
introducing the sequence without changing the meaning. A similar effect results from
the appositiveness of the noun phrase within the complex PP preposition with regard
to the following noun complement (cf. *they live on the allowance of 500 dollars*, 500
dollars = *allowance*). Also here the initial primary preposition may substitute for the
whole complex (*they live on 500 dollars*).

As the complex preposition evidently serves to give clear unambiguous
information, it may be expected that in contrast to simple, heavily overworked
prepositions it will have little room for *polysemy*. Indeed, since the 444 prepositional
units figure 473 times in the semantic categories, it means that the PP preposition is
used in more than one sense in only 29 cases, i.e. 6.1%.
3.4. **Formal patterns.** The prepositional units (comprising all alternative forms) are useful for semantic analysis. In order to ascertain productive formal patterns obtaining with PP prepositions, however, all their variants need to be taken into account as well. In the 444 units of the sample, the number of distinct formal sequences was found to be 480. The findings summed up in Table 3 reveal that in the 480 prepositional strings only 28 simple prepositions are used. There is only one case when the simple prepositions combine to form a complex one: *out of*.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>prep1</th>
<th>prep2</th>
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<tr>
<td>of</td>
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<tr>
<td>in</td>
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<td>at</td>
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<td>for</td>
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<td>within</td>
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<td>by</td>
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</table>

Table 3 Frequency of simple prepositions in the sample as prep1, prep2 and in general

The most frequent preposition *of*, appearing 382 times in all, of which twice in the combination *out of-NP of* and once in the combination *of-NP of*, thus figures in 379 complex PP prepositions, that is in 79% of all PP prepositions. In other words, 4/5 of PP prepositions comprise *of*, a fact clearly due to the grammatical function of this preposition (postmodifying *of*-phrase). The second most frequent preposition *in* appears in 40.5% of the PP prepositions, etc. The preposition *of*, moreover, is almost always used at the end of the complex PP preposition (no doubt due to its genitive function). It appeared just once in the initial position (*of the order of*), otherwise only as part of the complex prep2 *out of*.

In fact, of the simple prepositions in the sample only seven are found in the prep2 position: *of, with, to, for, from, over, against*. Two of them are used in this position exclusively, or almost exclusively (*of, over*), three predominantly (*with, for, from*), in two the distribution is even (*to, against*). As a result, the repertory of prepositions in prep1 and prep2 positions is even more restricted.

There are two things to note about the distribution: the 28 simple prepositions are quite a limited subset of the total of productive simple prepositions in English (some 70 prepositions are mentioned in *CGEL*) and, consequently, the ratio 28 : 480 of the simple to complex prepositions in the sample appears vastly disproportionate. This disproportionality (even greater with the 26 initial primary prepositions) only serves to underline the fact that the weight of semantic signification is on the nominal complement in the prepositional sequence rather than on the simple prepositions themselves.

However, it is even more interesting to consider the prep1-prep2 combinations displayed by the complex PP prepositions. There are 48 different combinations...
altogether in the sample. As Table 4 shows only five of the combinations account for almost 60% of all complex prepositions. Adding eight more (i.e., those occurring at least ten times in the sample) brings the number to 13 combinations which between them cover 82.5% of all PP prepositions under analysis. Finally, 19 combinations (those appearing at least five times) account for nearly 9/10 of the sample. The most interesting finding is, however, that one single combination (in-of) is the basis of 25.9% of all PP prepositions in the sample. In Quirk, Mulholland's sample of 130 sequences it was even 47, more than one third (1964; p. 66).

**Table 4 Formal patterns: prepl-prep2 combinations in the sample occurring at least 5 times**

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<td>100.0%</td>
<td>395</td>
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Actually, what Table 4 does is to provide a list of formal models of complex PP prepositions in order of their productivity. It shows that the number of patterns is very small indeed on which the existing complex prepositions have been formed and, just as important, are likely to be formed in future. In fact, if a new complex PP preposition is going to appear, the probability that it will be of the in-of type is 26%, the probability of the combination being in-of, on-of, in-with, at-of, or within-of, is 60%, etc.

It can be hypothesized that – in conjunction with the adverbial function of the PP sequence and its complement – the existence of a well-defined range of productive, prefabricated patterns greatly facilitates the creation of phrases with an ad hoc prepositional function, potential complex prepositions. It will also expedite transition from the status of a free combination to that of an institutionalized, and later lexicalized, preposition. To put it differently, with the right semantic conditions a free combination of the in-PP-of type is strongly predisposed to be used as a preposition, and even to become one. A similar train of thought echoes in Quirk, Mulholland's observation that 'since P1-P2 are expounded more often by in-of than by any other pair of prepositions, this feature may well have analogical power' (1964; p. 71).

Finally, in view of its frequency, it is not surprising that the in-of pattern figures in 16 of the 24 semantic categories. The frequency of such a pattern, combined with semantic universality, gives it great potential which seems to have developed to meet the apparent demand for, and also generates, the ample supply of new complex prepositions in language.
3.5. Prepositionality. No attempt was made to measure the degree to which the sequences in the sample have become prepositionalized as Kroupová does in her study, distinguishing between three stages of prepositionalization (initial, advanced and full). Whether or not a sequence has become (or is perceived as) an advanced or full preposition depends – apart from meeting given syntactic, morphological and lexico-semantic criteria – on the frequency of its use, a factor for which objective data are difficult to obtain.

However, the sample may provide quantitative data on some of the formal criteria:

1. **variability of prep1**: of the 444 units in the sample only 25 have two alternative prepositions, and only two have three prepositions in the initial position (on/upon/under pain of, on/for/in behalf of – in the latter case for/in is American usage abhorred by British speakers); these 27 cases of prep1 alternation are a mere 6% of the total sample.

2. **variability of prep2**: only 6 units, i.e. 1.4%, have two alternative prepositions in this position (e.g. in exchange of/for, at odds with/over).

3. **variability of the determiner** in front of the noun phrase: in 17 units, i.e., less than 4%, an alternative determiner is found, typically the and zero article (e.g. for (the) purposes of).

4. **sg/pl variability in the noun phrase**: this type of morphological variability is present in 7 cases only, 1.6% (the nouns case, combination, hand, interest, realm, question, matter), for which various explanations can be found (e.g., congruence in questions, matters).

The figures show that prepositional sequences indeed tend to be fixed in form. The instances of variability are numerically insignificant, and the only noticeable variation affects prep1 and the determiner. There are at least two more things the sample shows. Although both CGEL and Kroupová exclude the possibility of premodification within the complex preposition, it seems that it may occur either when it is an integral part of the unit (by the good offices of, within a hair’s breadth of, within a stone’s throw of) or at a very low stage of prepositionalization (Their convertism is done within a small area of the upper class). Second, in several instances the prepositional sequences appear to allow intensification: on the very point of, out of all proportion to.

4. Conclusions. The findings about the PP prepositions support the thesis that complex prepositions compensate for the polysemy of simple prepositions. The multi-word sequences tend to be restricted in meaning (if not monosemous) and both highly specific and explicit through semantic redundancy. The semantic specialization of the complex preposition often seems to go hand in hand with collocational specialization. The periphrastic nature of complex prepositions may also give greater prominence to the relationship expressed.

Although the sample includes practically the whole range of existing adverbial categories, the categories of process and especially contingency are particularly numerous (presumably pinpointing the areas in greatest need of semantic specification). Finally, analysis of the sample has shown that the repertory of simple prepositions participating in the complex PP prepositions is extremely small (both in the initial position, and even smaller in prep2 position). Moreover, there are great
differences between them in frequency of occurrence. What is even more important, structurally complex PP prepositions in the sample are based on a tiny group of productive formal patterns (the in-NP-of type accounting for 25% of all sequences in the sample). The development, as it were, has favoured certain formal prototypes with specific adverbial semantics which are predisposed to function and be accepted as secondary prepositions.
1. **Addition/exclusion** (number: 3/2; substitutive prepositions: besides, as well as/except for)
   - *in addition to*: in addition to books, the shop sold greeting cards
   - *with the addition of*: made from whole or skim milk with the addition of a bacterial culture
   - *with the exception of*: February which has 28 days with the exception of every fourth year
   - *with the exclusion of*: Some writers have spoken of Rhetoric..., with the exclusion of Poetry alone, as embracing all Prose-composition.

2. **Agreement** (number: 23; substitutive prepositions: according to, like, unlike)
   - *in accord with*: Attempts have been made to return to the Fournier point by making it in accord with the new measures.
   - *in accordance with*: pieces that are moved in accordance with throws of the dice
   - *in agreement with*: In agreement with this statement, 'Karyotypus' has been defined as a taxonomical conception,
   - *in compliance with*: to keep my passions neutral, and to marry only in compliance with my reason
   - *in concordance with*: In concordance with Dr Helm's suggestion, the name of Burmite is adopted for the new fossil resin.
   - *in conformity with*: who acts in conformity with the wishes of another
   - *in correspondence with*: numbered in correspondence with the tickets
   - *in dependence on*: to act in dependence on the general opinion
   - *in harmony with*: is carried in harmony with the movement of the cylinder while printing
   - *in keeping with*: His actions are not in keeping with his words.
   - *in line with*: The tote at Ellerslie, in line with the general trend this year, was up 22 per cent.
   - *out of line with*: A 'sound system'...of a complexity and skewness out of line with anything attested by languages known to us.
   - *in lockstep with*: moved in lockstep with the others
   - *in obedience to*: A tree evolves in obedience to God's laws
   - *on a par with*: A calf, a 'novillo'—which true bull-fighters place on a par with a cow.
   - *all of a piece with*: The new measures are all of a piece with the government's policy (?)
   - *in proportion to*: the bunkering trade has increased in proportion to output
   - *in step with*: We need not go in step with the Bishops over the whole ground exhaustively surveyed.
   - *in sync with*: Worldly success depends on being, as it were, in sync with the contemporary scene,
   - *in tune with*: The craftsman...drilled the thin slabs with the slat-pick...in tune with the foremanship of the seasons.
   - *in unison with*: to vibrate in unison with the sound
   - *in unity with*: the human will remains in unity with the Divine
   - *within a mile of (= like): There's no one within a mile of her

3. **Benefit** (number: 5; substitutive preposition: for; questions: 'cui bono', for whose benefit, etc.):
   - *for the advantage of*: All the streets are railed for the advantage of the show.
   - *for the benefit of*: having long laboured for the benefit of mankind; it shall be vested for the benefit of the creditors
   - *without detriment to*: the numbers in custody could very easily be halved without detriment to public safety
in the interests of: movements acting in the interests of small-scale commercial enterprise; to regulate the conduct of its citizens in the interest of the common good
in the service of: the children of parents who had lost their lives in the service of their country

4. Cause-reason (number: 50; including motive; substitutive prepositions: because of, out of, for, thanks to; questions: why?, what for?):
on account of: she saw it through on account of me
in acknowledgement of: he was decorated in acknowledgement of his merits
in anticipation of: secreting saliva profusely in anticipation of appetizing food
at the behest of: and is finally killed by Hagen at the behest of Brünhilde
by/with benefit of: The plainest rustics, if they will not wilfully shut their eyes, may, by benefit of its light, direct their steps.
at the command of: a vast maze built in Crete by Daedalus, at the command of King Minos
as a consequence of: radiation emitted as a consequence of a previous absorption of radiation
in consequence of: a trial was held in consequence of the investigation
in consideration of: she was offered money in consideration of her efforts
out of consideration for: (the debt) was honourably incurred by me out of consideration for your house.
by courtesy of: The films to be exhibited are shown by courtesy of the 'Power Loading' Committee, ...
out of courtesy to: We ... tasted it out of courtesy to the faircompoundress.
in default of: in default of any active public opinion there are no movements to abandon the death penalty
in/out of deference to: she agreed in deference to his wishes.
by/for dint of: by dint of hard work she became head of the company.
in expectation of: securities he has bought in expectation of future demands
in gratitude for: in gratitude for the bequest of Preston, the town council obliged themselves to his son
in gratitude to: in gratitude unto the duke of Bretagne ...he espoused that quarrel
on the ground of: made by a priest on the ground of authority received from Christ
on (the) grounds of: to make objection, esp. on the grounds of scruples
at the instance of: He applied for the assistantship at the instance of his professor
for lack of: The job went begging for lack of qualified applicants
in (the) light of: review the decision in the light of recent developments
on/under the pretext of: an organized absence from work by employees on the pretext of sickness
in protest against: a deliberate refusal to eat, undertaken in protest against imprisonment
in punishment of: were threatened retribution in punishment of their betrayal
as a reason for: which is offered as a reason for being excused
by reason of: he was consulted about the problem by reason of his long experience
in reaction to: In reaction to the public outrages at the 'smash 'n-grab imperialism' of the 19th century, business has acquired a sense of social responsibility.
in recognition of: presented by the pope in recognition of service to the Holy See
in recompense for/of: in recompense for discomforts endured, the crews draw what is termed 'hard-lying money
at the request of: who at the request of his uncle Pelias retrieved the Golden Fleece
out of respect for/to: Out of respect for the sense of the meeting you tend to soft-pedal ...; we spared him out of respect to the unspottedness of his life.
as a result of: social position a person gains as a result of personal effort
in retaliation for: to inflict unacceptable damage on the other in retaliation for a nuclear attack
in retribution for: advocates the punishment of criminals in retribution for the harm they have inflicted
in return for: In return for a rise in wages, they are being asked to take on more responsibility
at the reverence of: at the reverence of God, ...remember how we stand unto you (?)
as a reward for: a person appointed to a position as a reward for political support of an elected official
by right of: any property, esp. land, that devolves by right of inheritance
on the score of: to complain on the score of low pay.
out of a sense of: they helped him out of a sense of duty
at the suggestion of: at the suggestion of Prof. Alfred Newton...it has been replaced by
out of sympathy for: Out of sympathy for the homeless children, he gave them shelter for the night
under (the) threat of: he confessed under the threat of imprisonment.
in token of: a glove, thrown down by a medieval knight in token of challenge to combat
by/in virtue of: By virtue of independent wealth, he has the advantage of his opponents.
for/from want of: plants dying for want of rain.
at the whim of: he could be forced to work for another team at the whim of his employer
at the wish of: was transformed into a white heifer and, at the wish of Hera, first guarded by Argus

5. Concession (number: 8; typical substitutive prepositions: in spite of, for all; paraphrase: although ...):
at the cost of: to work at the cost of one's health
in defiance of: there was a splendid audience in defiance of the rainstorm
in despite of: he was tolerant in despite of his background and education
in the face of: she persevered in the face of many obstacles
on peril of: The ambassador warned him on peril of his life to deal no further with such things.
at the risk of: at the risk of uttering truisms, I may mention that
in spite of: the text was clear in spite of great conciseness
in the teeth of: She maintained her stand in the teeth of public opinion

6. Condition (number: 6; paraphrase: if ...; question: on what condition?):
in case of: in case of fire, ring the alarm-bell
under the condition of: Both subjectivity and ejectivity are only known under the condition of being
isolated from objectivity.
in the event of: it inflates automatically in the event of collision.
on/upon/under pain of: they were forbidden to enter on pain of death (= if they enter, they will be penalized
by)
on/under penalty of: No Tobacco Stalks allowed to be imported on penalty of forfeiture.
with the permission of: Mr. Forbes would willingly carry a new line along the proposed route, with the
permission of the frontagers and owners.

7. Connection (number: 4; expressing simultaneous occurrence, consideration of things)
in association with: reactions occasionally observed in association with certain infections
in connection with: has now become famous in connection with the newest school of psychotherapy.
in the context of: Mary Barton and North and South are often spoken of in the context of social fiction.
in relation to/with: Neurypnology; or, The Rationale of Nervous Sleep considered in relation with Animal
Magnetism.

8. Degree (number: 5; meaning 'almost' or 'absolutely')
within an ace of: I was within an ace of being talked to death
to the extent of: preoccupied to the extent of being unaware of his immediate surroundings
to the point of: He was abrupt to the point of rudeness
beyond the shadow of: it must be proved beyond the shadow of doubt
to the verge of: to overwork a mob to the verge of frenzy

9. Detriment (number: 5; expressing a loss for someone)
at the cost of: suppressed at the cost of considerable bloodshed
to the detriment of: a sharp lookout for anything that might happen to the detriment of his employer
to the exclusion of: He spent his spare time gardening, to the exclusion of all other interests
at the expense of: to thrive at the expense of others
at the sacrifice of: is produced at the sacrifice of fine flavour

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10. Disagreement-contrast (number: 18; also comparison; substitutive prepositions: unlike, against)

- out of alignment with: \textit{an identical one that is slightly out of alignment with the first}
- against the background of: \textit{any event is evaluated against the background of the whole class of events}
- by/in comparison with: \textit{which the authors ingeniously point up by comparison with a passage from Robinson Crusoe.}
- in conflict with: \textit{Franco-German may even mean ‘French in conflict with German’}
- in contradiction to: \textit{one side becomes warmer and the other cooler, in contradiction to the second law of thermodynamics}
- in contradistinction to: \textit{used in contradistinction to dominion or power in propriety}
- in contrast with: \textit{used in contrast with after in various locutions}
- in contravention of: \textit{Existing in contravention of economic regulations, as the ‘black market’}
- in disagreement with: \textit{declared in disagreement with their party’s views}
- out of keeping with: \textit{she acted oddly out of keeping with her character}
- at odds with/over: \textit{a raucous on-screen personality that was at odds with his quiet private life. They were usually at odds over political issues.}
- in opposition to: \textit{whatever can be said in opposition to them}
- out of (all) proportion to: \textit{bought things out of proportion to his financial means}
- at cross purposes with: \textit{they are still at cross purposes with each other}
- out of step with: \textit{Wherefore my feet go out of step with time.}
- out of sync with: \textit{His watch was several hours out of sync with the United States.}
- out of tune with: \textit{they sang out of tune with the orchestra}
- at variance with: \textit{to treat it as false by speaking of acting at variance with it}

11. Guidance (number: 12; expressing a principle, system governing a process; cf. Agreement)

- on the advice of: \textit{Pope Gregory XIII, acting on the advice of the Jesuit Clavius}
- by/on analogy with: \textit{a word formed by analogy with polymorphism; were coined on analogy with other numerical prefixes}
- on the authority of: \textit{to judge and to decide on the authority of historical monuments}
- on the basis of: \textit{was created on the basis of the North Semitic letters}
- at the discretion of: \textit{Used variously, at the discretion of the author, to denote some integer that characterizes the entity being discussed.}
- after the fashion of: \textit{I was dressed after the fashion of Europe}
- on the model of: \textit{nuns organized on the model of the Carmelite or White Friars}
- in order of: \textit{be listed in order of increasing affinity for the chromium tanning complex}
- on the principle of: \textit{he proceeds on the principle of codifying the actual practice of orthography}
- on the strength of: \textit{who act on the strength of powers conferred upon them by some act of parliament}
- on terms of: \textit{officers and privates were to meet on terms of equality}
- in the tradition of: \textit{This resistance has been passive in the tradition of civil disobedience and of Martin Luther King’s philosophy of non-co-operation.}

12. Identification (number: 14; characterized by appositivc relationship between the noun in the prepositional complex and the complement; substitutive prepositions: initial preposition or as):

- on an allowance of: \textit{The art student lived on an allowance of $300 a month}
- in the case of: \textit{The difficulties of great men are intensified in the case of little ones.}
- in cases of: \textit{a portable device filled with compressed air and used in cases of asphyxia}
- to the cause of: \textit{a profound attachment to the cause of peace}
- in the form of: \textit{exhortation suggests an intensified persuasion, often in the form of a discourse}
- to the memory of: \textit{days dedicated to the memory of the saints}
- under the name of: \textit{edicts known under the name of Assizes}
- from at/the position of: \textit{to withdraw from a position of judging so as to avoid any semblance of partiality or bias}
against the perils of: The Government...protected them against the perils of violence and rapacity, and ensured them tranquillity and repose

in the person of: The art of the ‘dip’...reached its climax in the person of ‘Diamond Dick’.

for the price of: he can get him for the price of twenty sheep a year

in the shape of: found a piece of wood in the shape of a head

in a state of: Some of the provincial mints were in a state of anarchy.

under the title of: The symptoms...have been described under the title of ‘peritonism’.


to the accompaniment of: to dance to the accompaniment of an accented musical beat

under (the) authority of: applied to a body meeting under authority of Congress

under the cloak of: He conducts his affairs under a cloak of secrecy.

by the combination of: amplitude produced by the combination of oscillations of different frequencies

in combination with: used freely in combination with elements of any origin

under cover of: they left under cover of darkness

in a fit of: she was led away in a fit of extreme nervousness

under the heel of: Thus the curtain rings down on Irene Forsyte, crushed under the heel of prosperity.

in imitation of: woven in the manner of a basket

at the mercy of: this arrangement... leaves us at the mercy of the new Coalition

in the nature of: the addition is in the nature of an afterthought

under the nose of: They’ve all been trained to rig up a wireless transmitter secretly, and send messages

under the nose of the Gestapo.

at the price of: Knowledge of the few widely separated tinajas and springs was bought at the price of many lives.

in reaction with: sticky resins derived from dicarboxylic acids in reaction with polyvalent alcohols

in rows of: To stitchy is to set up the sheaves, when bound, in rows of stitches.

on security of: One who borrows money on security of land

in the semblance of: consisting of a slight outward curve ending in the semblance of a cloven hoof.

in the style of: music composed in the style of such songs

under the supervision of: The bulk of the preparation had...proceeded under the supervision of the Ministry of the Interior

in the way of: to which a person is entitled to in the way of pecuniary assistance

14. Means-agency (number: 19; substitutive prepositions: with, by, without; question: how?):

by the act of: which had been justified by the act of indemnity

by/through the action of: disintegrates through the action of the weather

by/through the agency of: reaction in which a bond is broken by the agency of water

by/with the aid of: a sound articulated with the aid of the tongue

without the aid of: that are perceptible without the aid of instruments

by (a/the) decree of: foredoomed upon him by decree of God

with the help of: to perform the operation with the help of containerization.

through the instrumentality of: pyro-chemically formed through the instrumentality of fire

through the intercession of: sociogenous responses, those which are learned through the intercession of other persons, are few.

through the intermediation of: which determine the contraction of the muscles through the intermediation of the motor nerves

through the intervention of: the transition may have been brought about through the intervention of a derived factitive verb

by means of: method of secret voting by means of printed or written ballots

by the mechanism of: of ideas imposed on it by the mechanism of perception and memory.
through the mediation of: The enzymic activity of acetylcholinesterase can be photoregulated through the mediation of photochromic inhibitors of the enzyme.

through the medium of: I could translate it through the medium of the Latin version

by/through the good offices of: He got the job through the good offices of his uncle.

by/through the operation of: The further stages in the succession may be brought about by the operation of external factors alone.

by use of: the separation could have been improved by use of a lower temperature

through the working of: She shall whilst she is in sleepe imbrace hir husband through the working of this stone. (1567)

15. Originator (number: 3; substitutive preposition: from)
at the feet of: The lessons that he had learnt at the feet of Mazarin.
at the hand(s) of: the ME. forms have suffered at the hands of bad copyists and editors

on the part of: Animal Liberation will require greater altruism on the part of mankind than any other liberation movement.

16. Participation-cooperation (number: 19)
under the aegis of: these basic criteria, drawn up under the aegis of BSI
in alliance with: Phalangist militiamen now in alliance with the administration massacred at least 30 Christians

with the assistance of: a Mass sung with the assistance of a deacon and subdeacon.

without the assistance of: What could he do without the assistance of fixed capital or tools

in association with: colorful damselfishes that occur in association with tropical anemones

under the auspices of: a test for hunters held under the auspices of a hunt

in cahoots with: Are you willing to work in cahoots with yours truly?

in collaboration with: English author who wrote in collaboration with her brother

in collusion with: a crime committed by or in collusion with a person associated with the victim

in combination(s) with: used freely in combination with elements of any origin

in common with: have some properties which they possess in common with all the other tissues,

in company with: When one man works in company with another, he

in concert with: The envoys did not act in concert with one another:

in conjunction with: The police, in conjunction with the army, established order:

in consort with: Jehoram ...began to reign in consort with his father

in cooperation with: an antibody that in cooperation with complement causes dissolution of red blood cells

in coordination with: I cannot do anything but in coordination with the council.

with the help of: it was stolen by Jason and the Argonauts with the help of Aëtès's daughter, Medea

under the patronage of: they will have to be put under the patronage of Saint Joseph

17. Place (number: 76; questions: where, to/from/through where, etc.)
in advance of: consisting of a single row of columns placed in advance of the wall of a building

in approximation to: articulated with the tip of the tongue in approximation to the alveolar ridge.

in the area of: Otolaryngologic surgery is performed in the area of the ear, nose, and throat.

at the back of: ground or surface lying at the back of or behind the chief objects of contemplation

in (the) back of (AmE): a pass thrown to a receiver who is directly in back of a wall of blockers

on the back of: stripped of every bit of clothing, and bound on the back of a wild bronco

on a background of: mounted in various designs on a background of satin.

at the base of: This peculiar fusion ... lies at the base of the desires ... for sexual self-mutilation.

on board of: to indicate the presence of cholera on board of a vessel

in/within the bosom of: Deep in the bosom of the hills; in the bosom of one's family/a church

at the bottom of: person who stands at the bottom of the scale

outside the boundaries of: a parish located outside the boundaries of or at a distance from a town or city
within the **boundaries** of: occurring within the boundaries of a state
within a **hair's breadth** of: I am within a hair's breadth of doubting.
on the **brink** of: every shopkeeper teetering on the brink of bankruptcy, is in essentially the same position.
in charge of: The officer who was placed in charge of the Academy.
in the **company** of: he had been seen in the company of lewd women
on the **confines** of: a disease sometimes, though rarely, experienced on the confines of Somerset and Dorset.
in contact with: it was placed in contact with the other one; that part of a brake which is brought in contact with the object
in the **core** of: deformed cells contained in the core of the lesion
on course for: The world's favourite airline should, this week, show it is well on course for market.
in the **direction** of: The United States was indeed being pushed in the direction of a police state.
at a **distance** of/from: a parish located at a distance from a town or city
at the **doorstep** of: exacting justice by sitting and fasting at the doorstep of an offender
on the **edge** of: curved hairs growing as a fringe on the edge of an eyelid
under the **eyes** of: where children could safely play under the eyes of their parents
at the **feet** of: to prostrate means to lie down at the feet of a person
on the **flank** of: a body of soldiers placed on the flank of an army to guard a line of march
at the **foot** of: We are at the foot of the ladder, and they at the top
in/at the **forefront** of: It behoves this nation to keep in the forefront of reactor technology.
in the **foreground** of: An object in the foreground of a painting serving to emphasize the principal figure or scene
in the **front** of: the wind that is created in front of an avalanche
to the **front** of: a piece of wood which was fixed to the front of the saddle
in the **grip** of: who awake to find themselves in the grip of the law
at the **head** of: he was at the head of a mighty army
under the **heel** of: A small piece of wood placed under the heel of a living model for support.
at the **heels** of: With heavy hearts they dragged at the heels of his troop.
at the **helm** of: A stern taskmaster was at the helm of the company
in the **hollow** of: The flyman may be said to carry some of the destiny of the performance in the hollow of his hand.
within an **inch** of: He came within an inch of getting killed in the crash.
in the **line** of: swing the club-head to and fro over the ball in the line of the intended stroke
in line with: the axis of the cartridge is not in line with the groove
out of line with: the centre of the crank is set slightly out of line with the centre of the cylinder
in the **middle** of: standing in the middle of the road
in the **midst** of: put in a remark in the midst of a conversation,
through the **midst** of: throwing the ball through the midst of them
in the **neighbourhood** of: The alligator thrives in the neighbourhood of New Orleans.
under the **nose** of: She was knocked down ...almost under the nose of a police horse.
within the **orbit** of: Pluto sometimes passes within the orbit of Neptune
on the **outskirts** of: peripheral resistance on the outskirts of the battle area
in parallel with: an electric device in which part of the field circuit is in parallel with the armature circuit
in the **presence** of: it did him credit in the presence of his lady
under the **protection** of: it was received under the protection of the city of London
in **proximity** to: Whenever one part of a circuit is brought in proximity to another,
en/on **route** from: He would attempt to escape somewhere en route from Gerona.
en/on **route** to: He would attempt to escape somewhere en route to Gerona.
in the **safety** of: who were waiting in the safety of the mountain refuge
through a **series** of: The recruits must go through a series of exercises and evolutions
in the **shadow** of: To be a poet in the age of Eliot, to grow up in the shadow of a frosty Bostonian.
along the side of (=on): by means of which a seam running along the side of a balloon can be laid open.
by the side of (=near): he was standing by the side of the bus
out of sight of: a person stationed out of sight of the audience
within sight of: they were within sight of land
under the supervision of: They are ...discharging the offender and placing him under the supervision of
a probation officer
in the thick of: The Residency buildings and its gardens are in the thick of the town.
within a stone's throw from/of: They live within a stone's throw of the bridge
at the top of: decorative engraving placed at the top of the first page of a volume
on top of: an elaborate confection, on top of which are placed two or more scoops of ice cream, fruit
on the track of: a clue which may put one on the track of discovery
on the underside of: a door located on the underside of some cargo planes
on the verge of: he was on the verge of a nervous breakdown
in the vicinity of: an Australian aboriginal people living in the vicinity of Alice Springs
in the wake of: Brown dust that came rolling in the wake of our carriage.
by way of: they went there by way of Prais
on the way to (= about to, near): Charles-Edouard’s heir was on the way to becoming a publicity-monger.
at the wheel of: Her ambition is to be at the wheel of a large corporation by the age of 40.

18. Possession (number: 2)
in the absence of: In the absence of a national program, America muddles through to produce its energy.
in the hands of: The leadership of the country at this time was in the hands of the privileged class.

19. Purpose-goal (number: 36; paraphrase: in order to...)
with the aim of: The investigations ...were conducted with the aim of comparing the reactions of
in commemoration of: a fast is held in commemoration of the death of Aaron
in compensation for: sum of money claimed to be paid in compensation for loss or injury sustained.
in defence of: one who fights in defence of a fortress
in evidence of: a ribbon worn at a ceremony in evidence of goodwill
in extenuation of: a plea offered in extenuation of a fault
with an eye to: He lent me the money with an eye to asking a favour in return.
for fear of: we were careful not to take sides for fear of getting personally involved
in (the) furtherance of: In furtherance of this project, she kept her son in a state of ignorance and vice.
in honour of: held a festival in honour of Bacchus
in (the) hope of: a casual acquaintance made in hope of a sexual relationship
with the intention of: whose acquaintance is formed with the intention of having a sexual relationship
in line for: Certain cardinals always are papabili, or in line for the papacy. (?)
in memory for: monument erected in memory of a deceased person
for the object of: Pheasant-driving is pursued...for the object of obtaining sporting shots.
with the object of: a person at an auction who bids with the object of raising the prices
with the objective of: starting out this season with the objective of putting up 100,000 gallons of
loganberry wine
in observance of: Flags shall fly from the City Hall on June 14 in observance of Flag Day.
in praise of: A popular song 'Curl-the-Mo, Uncle Joe' — written in praise of Joseph Stalin,
in preparation for: to pull back the string of (a bow or the like) in preparation for shooting
in proof of: which Declarer can show in proof of his ability
in provision for: stocking up in provision for the winter
for the purpose of: the book was written for the purpose of explaining the event
with the purpose of: An expedition was planned with the purpose of reaching Western Port.
for (the) purposes of: in which a substance may be heated for purposes of analysis
in (the) pursuance of: In pursuance of his theory de Courville instituted the feature of the 'plug number'.

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in pursuit of: All those ... were devoured by the Imperial Minotaur (sc. Napoleon) in pursuit of his dream of universal domination.

in quest of: The military police arrived in quest of him.

for the sake of: work assigned for the sake of looking or keeping busy.

in search of: raises his body ... and claws around in search of a fresh foothold.

in settlement of: money paid in settlement of the debt

as a sign of: a whistle uttered by a person as a sign of astonishment

in testimony of: offered formally in testimony of affection or respect,

on the trail of: Whirling in a high-powered car from Monte Carlo to Cap d’Antibes on the trail of an exotically beautiful femme fatale.

with a view to: to examine with a view to obtaining information

by way of: to number articles by way of distinguishing them.

20. Range (number: 43; appositively defining competence, duration, abstract position, dimension, etc.; substitutive prepositions: usually the initial primary preposition introducing the phrase; overlapping with locative, temporal meanings)

within the ambit of: whose tenements are not within the ambit of the manor

to the amount of: may be exchanged for money to the amount of the original purchase

in the area of: The softness of our line ... shows up clearly in the area of insider trading,

within a (small) area of: Their convertism is done within a small area of the upper class.

beyond the bounds of: It is not beyond the bounds of possibility that

within the bounds of: it is within the bounds of reason within the bounds of his estate

on the brink of: we are on the brink of war/discovery/being born

within a circumference of: capable of destroying all matter within a circumference of eighty miles from the point of explosion.

within the compass of: falls not within the compass of my remembrance

on the confines of: Our author finds himself on the confines of a mystery.

at a distance of: which is at a distance of one foot from a point source of light

within a distance of: When two armies are within a distance of a butt’s length.

in excess of: a commodity that is overabundant or in excess of demand in the market

beyond the field of: which goes beyond the range or field of our experience,

within the field of: or to keep them within the field of defensive fire; a pioneer in the field of sociology

within the framework of: operating within the framework of the Atlantic Pact

within hail of: the mother kept her children within hail of her voice

at a height of: flying at a height of 300 m

beyond/outside the limits of: extending beyond the limits of psychology

within the limits of: result that is not necessarily exact, but is within the limits of accuracy

by a margin of: He beat them by a margin of ten seconds

in/of the order of: he was the first in the order of birth

as part of: included in the Septuagint and the Vulgate as part of the Old Testament

without the peril of (beyond the power/reach of): To be gone from Athens, where we might be Without the peril of the Athenian Law.

within a period of: specifying goals to be reached within a period of five years

on the (very) point of: he was on the point of death

on the premises of: athletes will be ‘processed’ at a staging area on the premises of the State University College

within a radius of: Bushmen and bushwomen within a radius of forty or fifty miles ride to these functions.

beyond/outside the range of: events which are beyond the range of this immediate experience within the range of a reasonable range of: solar power was quite within the range of practical matters

among/within the ranks of: Of course there cannot be many among the ranks of the old specialists who could, within the ranks of the band he met up with tenor saxist Chu Berry
beyond/outside the reach of: that lies beyond the reach of science
within (the) reach of: which being within the reach of my own knowledge
within the realm/realms of: collecting taxes is not within the realm of our office; Unmatch’d within the realms of time!

in the region of: annual turnover in the region of 6,000 million koruna
on a scale of: as to begin the campaign on a scale of disastrous military inefficiency.
beyond the scope of: speculations beyond the scope of logic
within the scope of: a variable occurring within the scope of the quantifier
within the span of: processes observable within the span of human life as opposed to macroevolution
in the sphere of: he plays a significant part in the sphere of politics
within the sweep of: waiting till they see a salmon show within the sweep of the net
to the tune of: they will need capital to the tune of six million dollars
within the verge of: an action within the verge of her abilities.

21. Replacement (number: 17; substitutive preposition: instead of)
in alternation with: commonly used in alternation with hexameters
as an alternative to: removal of a phrenic nerve, formerly carried out as an alternative to phrenicotomy
on/or/in behalf of: Deakin declined on behalf of the Liberal Protectionists to accept Anti-Socialism as
in exchange for/of: some value given in exchange for the promise
in lieu of: He gave us an IOU in lieu of cash.
in (the) place of: made with butterscotch flavoring in place of chocolate
as a pledge of: They therefore sent seven galleys ...as a pledge of their loyalty.
in pledge for: to constrain by seizing and holding goods, etc., in pledge for rent, damages, etc.,
in preference to: Many now drink cocoa in preference to coffee.
as proxy for: to betroth or espouse as proxy for another
as a replacement for: The first steel helmets were introduced in 1916 as a replacement for the pickelhaube
as a representative of: who enters into a covenant as a representative of others
in satisfaction of: I accepted 13 gals. of peach brandy in satisfaction of the damage...
in the stead of: Sometimes they shew a painted idol in the stead of him [God].
as a substitute for: The bark of Carolina Allspice is used as a substitute for cinnamon.
in substitution for: a person whose body is shown in a movie in substitution for a leading actor
by way of: to seize as forfeited to the public domain by way of penalty; he said it by way of apology

22. Respect/disregard (number: 22/4; expressing correlation)
on the character of: On the basis of their limited extent and mode of occurrence as sills, small intruded masses, and border facies, the rocks are hypabyssal; on the character of their usual textures, they are plutonic.
in consideration of: In consideration of Christ’s Death and Sacrifice, he would freely forgive all penitent and believing Sinners their personal Obligation to eternal Punishment.
in contemplation of: A corporation is an artificial being...existing only in contemplation of law.
in contempt of: When Oedipus slays his father, he does so in contempt of oracular warnings.
in disregard of: a pedestrian who crosses streets in disregard of traffic signals
in the eyes of: Her antics in no way diminish you in the eyes of your friends.
in freedom of: limited in freedom of movement by obstruction
in (the) light: when interpreted in the light of the theory of concrescence
in the matter of: All I ever do in the matter of her clothes is dutifully admire.
from the point of view of: the plan came to be investigated from the point of view of its accommodation.
in point of: are almost equal, in point of colour, to rosewood
in the question/in questions of: an important consideration in the question of currency stabilization; an important consideration in question of currency stabilization.
with/in reference to: Coals may be subdivided with reference to the production of coke into...the coking and non-coking.

without reference to: the nomination of Senators to an office is confirmed without reference to a committee.
in/with regard to: the statement itself contemplated in regard to its truth, authority, universality, etc.
without regard to: Christian names are often inserted or omitted without regard to this rule
in relation to/with: The next topic we explored in relation to clothing and textiles was
with relation to: the direction of the flux does not alternate with relation to the motion of the armature conductor
in respect of/to: being limited or bounded in respect of range, number, etc.
with respect to: The solution must ...become saturated with respect to both ice and salt,
without respect to: often applied without respect to the nature of the tenure
in the sight of: by which, in the teaching of the N.T., a sinner is justified in the sight of God
from the standpoint of: negative features of Soviet life could be criticized only from the standpoint of 'Party-mindedness'
in terms of: Allomorphic differences of tone may be described in terms of different tonal surroundings.
in view of: that may in view of present evidence be reasonably expected to happen
from the viewpoint of: if they were investigated from the viewpoint of their contributions to

23. Subject matter (number: 7)
on the issue of: We are kindred spirits on the issue of gun control.
on the matter/matters of: On the matter of multivitamin treatment, there are different schools of thought,
a gathering of public Friends to confer together on matters of faith and doctrine
on the point of: formal opinion that is given on a point of law by a court; Otho’s emphasis fell on the point of answering truly every question that might be asked
on the question of: whether they should not also be consulted on the question of whether they should enter the Common Market.
on the subject of: written document on the subject of the British questionnaires
on the theme of: The preacher amplified on the theme of brotherly love.
on the topic of: nothing has been published on the topic of the PK effect

24. Support (number: 7; substitutive preposition: for)
in aid of: project in which members of a church work together in aid of some worthy cause
on/in/for behalf of: The lawyer is acting on behalf of the heirs, to interpose in behalf of someone in difficulty
in favour of: he discriminates in favour of his relatives
in the name of: a rehash of most every form of welfare for the rich ever proposed in the name of 'economic development'
on the side of: who fought on the side of Charles I against
in support of: written in support of the Constitution
in sympathy with: he expressed himself in sympathy with their cause

25. Time (number: 42; questions: when, since when, how long, etc.)
in the act of: the system of rules shared by the participants in an act of communication.
in advance of: arrived in advance of the event; a copy of a book sent out in advance of publication
in the aftermath of: the rebuilding which took place in the aftermath of war
in the age of: not unknown even in the age of Cicero and Augustus
at the break of: I rarely rose at the break of day
after the conclusion of: reestablish her financial affairs, in so short a period, after the conclusion of war
at the conclusion of: brought from Abyssinia at the conclusion of the war.
on the conclusion of: American-Indian ceremony of burying a tomahawk on the conclusion of a peace.
in/throughout the course of: evaluating the pupil's progress throughout the course of study
for the duration of: They stayed there for the duration of the war
in the era of: clinging to the memory of the old régime in the era of political regeneration.
on the eve of: prescribed phenobarbitone pills for a good night’s sleep on the eve of the race.
in the heart of: it was in the heart of the London season; to send me away in the heart of severe winter
in the heat of: In the heat of his hasty departure he forgot his keys.
on the heels of: On the heels of the hurricane came an outbreak of looting.
in the hollow of: orders, given in the hollow of the night
in the middle of: woke up in the middle of the night
on the occasion of: thirty-eight members turned out on the occasion of the first meet.
in payment of: impressed postage stamps may be used as adhesive stamps in payment of postage.
after the period of: usually disappearing after the period of childhood
during the period of: take place during the period of incubation of an egg
for a/the period of: was used continuously for a period of years prescribed by law
in the period of: In the period of 1865 to 1875 a large number of mills were erected throughout Canada
at the pleasure of: a warrant issued for the imprisonment of a person without trial at the pleasure of the monarch. (= for as long as it pleases ...)
in precedence to: that species in a mixed crop which is selected to come next in precedence to the dominant.
in (the) process of: the skin which they throw off in process of growth
during/in the reign of: an official return prepared during the reign of Henry VIII
in the service of: occurring in the service of the Mass
in the sight of: There is something almost unearthly in the sight of enormous spaces of hill and plain.
in/within the space of: may be repeated several times in the space of twelve hours.
at the threshold of: The incunabulist has to stop at the threshold of the year 1501.
in the throes of: The private sector, particularly in the throes of recession, is limited in its ability to pay
at/in the time of: took place at the time of Revolution; who lived in the time of Charles II
during the time of: during the time of his Chancellourship of England
since the time of: the ass has, since the times of the Greeks, figured in fables
till the time of: was not discovered till the time of Galileo
in times of: The catacombs became places of refuge in times of persecution
in the train of: disease came in the train of war
in transit to: a passenger making a brief stop at an airport in transit to another destination
in the transition to: the was lost in the transition to ME.
at the turn of: At the turn of the millennium the monastic churches were quite enormous.
in the wake of: a disease which occurs in epidemic form usually in the wake of disasters such as wars

II Alphabetic list of the prepositional units (according to the noun; 444 items)
in the absence of; to the accompaniment of; in accord with; in accordance with; on account of; within an ace of; in acknowledgement of; by the act of; in the act of; by the action of; in addition to; with the addition of; in advance of; for the advantage of; on the advice of; under the aegis of; in the aftermath of; in the age of; by/through the agency of; in agreement with; by/with the aid of; in aid of; without the aid of; with the aim of; out of alignment with; in alliance with; on the allowance of; in alternation with; as an alternative to; within the ambit of; to the amount of; by analogy with; in anticipation of; in approximation to; in the area of; within a (small) area of; with the assistance of; without the assistance of; in association with; under the auspices of; on (the) authority of; under (the) authority of; at the back of; on the back of; in (the) back of; against the background of; on a background of; at the base of; on the basis of; on/in/for behalf of; at the behest of; by/with benefit of; for the benefit of; on board of; in/within the bosom of; at the bottom of;
outside the boundaries of; within the boundaries of; beyond the bounds of; within the bounds of; at the break of; on the brink of; in cahoots with; in case of; in a/the case/cases of; to the cause of; on the character of; in charge of; within a circumference of; under the cloak of; in collaboration with; in collusion with; by the combination of; in combination(s) with; at the command of; in commemoration of; in common with; in company with; in the company of; by/in comparison with; within the compass of; in compensation for; in compliance with; in concert with; after the conclusion of; at the conclusion of; on the conclusion of; in concordance with; under the condition of; on the confines of; in conflict with; in conformity with; in conjunction with; in connection with; as a consequence of; in consequence of; in consideration of; out of consideration for; in consort with; in contact with; in contemplation of; in contempt of; in the context of; in contradiction to; in contradiction with; in contrast with; in contravention of; in cooperation with; in coordination with; in the core of; in correspondence with; at the cost of; in throughout the course of; on course for; by courtesy of; out of courtesy to; under cover of; by (a/the) decree of; in default of; in defence of; in/out of deference to; in defiance of; in dependence of; in spite of; to the detriment of; without detriment to; by/for dint of; in the direction of; in disagreement with; at the discretion of; in disregard of; at a distance from; at a distance of; within a distance of; at the doorstep of; for the duration of; on the edge of; in the era of; on the eve of; in the event of; in evidence of; with the exception of; in excess of; in exchange of/for; to the exclusion of; in expectation of; at the expense of; to the extent of; in extenuation of; with an eye to; in the eyes of; under the eyes of; in (the) face of; after the fashion of; in favour of; on the flank of; for fear of; at the feet of; beyond the field of; in/within the field of; in a fit of; at the foot of; in/at the forefront of; in the foreground of; in the form of; within the framework of; in freedom of; in front of; to the front of; in the furtherance of; in gratuity for; in gratitude (un)to; in the grip of; on the ground of; on (the) grounds of; within hail of; within a hair's breadth of; at the hand(s) of; in the hands of; in harmony with; at the head of; in the heart of; in the heat of; under the heel of; at the heels of; in height of (300 m); at the helm of; with the help of; in the hollow of; in honour of; in (the) hope of; in imitation of; within an inch of; at the instance of; through the instrumentality of; with the intention of; through the intercession of; in the interest(s) of; through the intermediation of; through the intervention of; in keeping with; out of keeping with; for lack of; in lieu of; in (the) light of; beyond/outside the limits of; within the limits of; in line for; in the line of; in line with; out of line with; in lockstep with; in the manner of; by a margin of; in the matter of; on the matter/matters of; by means of; by the mechanism of; through the mediation of; through the medium of; in memory of; to the memory of; at the mercy of; in the middle of; in the midst of; through the midst of; within a mile of; on the model of; in the name of; under the name of; in the nature of; in the neighbourhood of; under the nose of; in obedience to; for the object of; with the object of; with the objective of; in observance of; on the occasion of; at odds with/over; by/through the good offices of; by/through the operation of; in opposition to; within the orbit of; in order of; of/in the order of; on the outskirts of; on/upon/under pain of; on a par with; in parallel with; as part of; on the part of; under the patronage of; in payment of; on/under penalty of; on peril of; without the peril of; against the perils of; after the period of; during the period of; for a/the period of; in the period of; within the period of; with the permission of; in the person of; all of a piece with; in (the) place of; at the pleasure of; as a pledge of; in pledge for; from the point of view of; in point of; on the (very) point of; to the point of; from a/the position of; in praise of; in precedence of; in preference to; on the premises of; in preparation for; in the presence of; on/under the pretext of; at the price of; for the price of; on the principle of; in (the) process of; in proof of; in proportion to; out of (all) proportion to; under the protection of; in protest against; in provision for; in proximity to; as proxy for; in punishment for; for the purpose of; for (the) purposes of; with the purpose of; at cross purposes with; in (the) pursuance of; in pursuit of; in quest of; in the question/in questions of; on the question of; within the radius of; beyond/outside the range of; within the range of; among/within the ranks of; within reach of; beyond/outside the reach of; in reaction to; in reaction with; within the realm(s) of; as a reason for; by reason of; in recognition of; in recompense for; with/in reference to; without reference to; in/with regard to; without regard to; in the region of; during/in the reign of; in relation to/with; with relation to; as a replacement for; as a representative of; at the request of; in respect of/to; out of respect for/to; with respect to; without respect to; as a result of; in retaliation for; in retribution for; in return for; at the reverence of; as a reward for; by right of; at the risk of; on the (high) road to; on/road from; on/on
route to; in rows of; at the sacrifice of; in the safety of; for (the) sake of; in satisfaction of; on a scale of; beyond the scope of; within the scope of; on the score of; in search of; on security of; in the semblance of; in the sense of; out of a sense of; through a series of; in the service of; in settlement of; beyond the shadow of; in the shape of; along the side of; by the side of; on the side of; within sight of; in the sight of; out of sight of; as a sign of; in/within the space of; within the span of; in the sphere of; in spite of; from the standpoint of; in a state of; in the stead of; in step with; out of step with; on the strength of; in the style of; on the subject of; as a substitute for; in substitution for; at the suggestion of; under the supervision of; in support of; in the sweep of; in sympathy with; out of sympathy for; in sync with; out of sync with; in the teeth of; in terms of; in testimony of; on the theme of; in the vicinity of; in the view of; with a view to; from the viewpoint of; by/in virtue of; in the wake of; for/from want of; by way of; in the way of; on the wheel of; at the whim of; at the wish of; through the working of.

Literature


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Dictionaries


Anglické složené předložky typu Prep₁-Sb-Prep₂

Résumé

Práce si klade za cíl předložit co nejúplnější soubor anglických víceslovných předložek typu Prep₁-Sb-Prep₂, předběžně je popsat a zhodnat z hlediska sémantického a strukturního. Ukazuje, že nejvíce zastou-
peny jsou funkce adverbiální (procesuální, kauzální, časová a prostorová) a v rámci tzv. typu delimitačního výrazu apozičního rázu. Dále ukazuje, že tyto předložkové sekvence jsou realizovány velmi omezeným počtem formálních modelů – více než 1/4 z nich tvoří kombinace *in-Sb-of*. Kombinace *in-of, on-of, in-with, at-of a within-of* představují téměř 60% celkového počtu. Zdá se, že spojení typické předložkové sémantiky a formálního vzoru vytváří vhodné předpoklady k prepozicionalizaci takovýchto syntagmat na základě analogie. K dalším charakteristickým rysům těchto výrazů patří výrazná monosémie, významová specifičnost a explicitnost (v mnoha případech i kolokační vyhraněnost), které jsou v kontrastu se značnou polysémii a obecností předložek primárních (jednoslovných). Zde je patrně třeba hledat důvod pro rostečící počet víceslovných předložek zejména tohoto typu.

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