

Unit 122

Preposition + noun ('by mistake', 'on television' etc.)

Students often use wrong preposition before the words in this unit. So study this list and the examples carefully:

to pay **BY** cheque (*but* 'to pay **IN** cash' or 'to pay cash'):

- Did you **pay by cheque** or **in cash**?

(to do something) **BY** accident / **BY** mistake / **BY** chance:

- We hadn't arranged to meet. We met **by chance**.

a play **BY** Shakespeare / a painting **BY** Rembrandt / a novel **BY** Tolstoy etc.:

- Have you read any books **by Agatha Christie**? (= any books written by Agatha Christie?)

(to be / to fall) **IN** love **WITH** someone:

- Have you ever been **in love with** anyone?

IN (my) opinion:

- **In my opinion** the film wasn't very good.

(to be) **ON** fire:

- Look! That car is **on fire**.

(to be) **ON** the telephone / **ON** the phone:

- You can't phone me. I'm not **on the phone**. (= I haven't got a phone)
- I've never met her but I've spoken to her **on the phone**.

ON television / **ON** the radio:

- I didn't watch the match **on television**. I listened to it **on the radio**.

(to be / to go) **ON** a diet:

- I've put on a lot of weight. I'll have to go **on a diet**.

(to be / to go) **ON** strike:

- There are no trains today. The railway workers are **on strike**.

(to be/to go) **ON** holiday / **ON** business / **ON** a trip / **ON** a tour / **ON** an excursion / **ON** a cruise / **ON** an expedition etc.

- Tom's away at the moment. He is **on holiday** in France.
- Did you go to Paris **on business** or **on holiday**?
- One day I'd like to go **on a world tour**.

but you can also say 'go to a place **FOR** a holiday / **FOR** my holiday(s)':

- Tom has gone to France **for a holiday**.
- Where are you going **for your** holidays this year?

(to go / to come) **FOR** a walk / **FOR** a swim / **FOR** a drink etc.:

- She always goes **for a walk** with her dog in the morning.
- After work we went to a cafe **for a drink**.

(to have something) **FOR** breakfast / **FOR** lunch / **FOR** dinner:

- What did you have **for lunch**?

- I've never met her but I've spoken to her **on the phone**.