

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

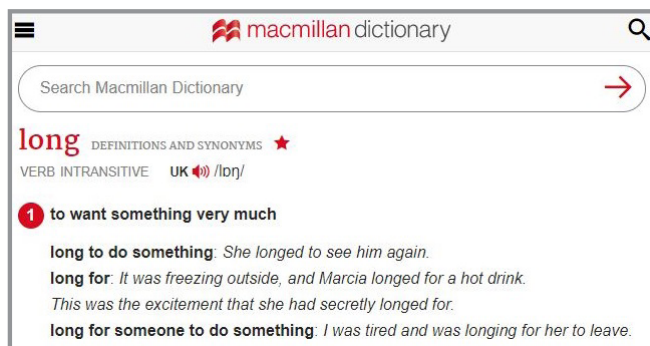
Building your vocabulary isn't about learning one word at a time—the trick is to learn patterns of words. An online dictionary can show you the prepositions that follow verbs and adjectives. You can see if verbs are followed by a verb in the *-ing* or the infinitive form. Do the activities and discover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

Activity 1

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



generous _____, _____, _____



long _____

Activity 2

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

- Some children were sobbing and clinging to their mothers.
- People worry more _____ their health than they used to.
- The owner is prevented by law _____ making any major changes.
- We used to argue _____ who should drive.
- I object _____ paying that much for milk.
- We finally succeeded _____ getting Marjorie up the stairs.

VOCABULARY BUILDERS

Activity 3

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

about at for from in of on with

- a You should be tolerant of other people's opinions
- b I've always been interested _____
- c I'm very fond _____
- d My country is famous _____
- e I'm very good _____
- f If you work as a political correspondent, you need to be familiar _____
- g I usually feel guilty _____

Activity 4

Complete these sentences with the infinitive or the *-ing* form of the verb shown in brackets. Check your answers in the Macmillan online dictionary.

- a If there is a mechanical problem, we suggest contacting (contact) the manufacturer directly.
- b He's considering _____ (buy) a used car.
- c The committee decided unanimously _____ (accept) the offer.
- d I don't enjoy _____ (go) on holiday as much as I used to.
- e She closed her eyes and pretended _____ (be) asleep.
- f I wouldn't mind him _____ (go) if he helped around the house.
- g I expect _____ (get) paid on time.
- h She had just finished _____ (dress) the children when the phone rang.
- i I do think you should have offered _____ (help).