

# List of Common Preposition Errors

The list of common preposition errors is adopted from the paper – “The Ups and Downs of Preposition Error Detection in ESL Writing” available on the Web at <http://www.aclweb.org/anthology/C/C08/C08-1109.pdf>. The top seven preposition errors are shown with the frequency of occurrence and example sentences.

- The incorrect preposition **to** is used when no preposition is required (9.5%).

Incorrect: We went **to** outside.

Correct: We went outside.

- The incorrect preposition **of** is used when no preposition is required (7.3%).

Incorrect: Graduates should consider **of** their career goals.

Correct: Graduates should consider their career goals.

- The incorrect preposition **in** is used when **at** is required (7.1%).

Incorrect: They want to get a job **in** the earliest possible opportunity.

Correct: They want to get a job **at** the earliest possible opportunity.

- The incorrect preposition **to** is used when **for** is required (4.6%).

Incorrect: Some authorities are now claiming that chocolate may be good **to** you in

Correct: Some authorities are now claiming that chocolate may be good **for** you in

- The incorrect preposition **in** is used when no preposition is required (3.2%).

Incorrect: I promise to help you **in** complete your homework.

Correct: I promise to help you complete your homework.

- The incorrect preposition **of** is used when **for** is required (3.1%).

Incorrect: What is the reason **of** Hong Kong’s air pollution?

Correct: What is the reason **for** Hong Kong’s air pollution?

- The incorrect preposition **in** is used when **on** is required (3.1%).

Incorrect: Education **in** the internet can save a lot of resources.

Correct: Education **on** the internet can save a lot of resources.