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My best friend's started hanging out with people who are two or three years older than we are. I didn't mind at first, but now he's going to a concert with them after he'd said he'd go with me. He can't have forgotten – in fact, I'm sure he's done it on purpose. He hasn't got anything in common with them and he's recently been going to places where he's under age. Of course I don't want him to get in trouble, but I just don't know what to do. **MARCO**

Prepositional phrase = preposition + noun phrase

P^{THE}repositions



LEARN THIS! Preposition + noun phrases



Some examples of preposition + noun phrases include:

at: *not at all at last at fault at once at stake*

by: *by mistake by accident*

for: *for the time being for good for now for one thing*

in: *in control in doubt in the wrong in any case in that case*

on: *on the one hand ... on the other hand
on second thoughts on the whole*

under: *under arrest under control under the impression
under pressure*


of: *interest*

at	<i>(not) at all at last at the moment</i>
for	<i>for a while for good for now for one thing</i>
in	<i>in control in doubt in effect in vain</i>
on	<i>on condition that on second thoughts on the whole</i>
under	<i>under arrest under control under the impression</i>


PREPOSITIONAL PHRASES

over the river
through the woods
to Grandmother's house

**DON'T LET THEM
CONFUSE YOU!**



A cartoon illustration of a young boy with brown hair, wearing a light blue shirt and tan pants. He is standing with his arms crossed and his hand on his chin, appearing to be in deep thought or confused.

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3 Complete the phrases with the correct prepositions.

- 1 Your friend's clearly in the wrong; I'd be very angry!
- 2 It sounds like he's under a lot of pressure and needs help.
- 3 on the one hand, he's behaved badly, but on the other, he's still your best friend.
- 4 If I were you, I wouldn't contact him for the time being.
- 5 He says he's your friend; in that case he should act like one!
- 6 Perhaps he didn't mean to, but he shouldn't have lied to you in any case.
- 7 I'm sure he upset you by accident, so you should forgive him.

1 Complete the phrases with the correct preposition.

- 1 I was going to have a shower, but on second thoughts, I'll wait until later.
- 2 He hasn't bought any new clothes for a while.
- 3 Jenny's been training for months and at last she's ready to run a marathon.
- 4 Were you under the impression that the test is next week?
- 5 I'm not sure about walking into town. for one thing, it's pretty cold outside.
- 6 Despite some delays, on the whole we had a good journey.
- 7 He tried in vain to open the window but it was completely stuck.
- 8 It seems his decision to go to university is now in doubt.

4 Complete the responses to Marco's problem with nouns from exercise 2 and the **Learn this!** box.

It's definitely not you that's at ¹ fault, but I think you should talk to him about it at ² once and find out what's going on.

Don't do anything you might regret. There's a lot at ³ stake and you risk losing his friendship for ⁴ good.

He didn't change his plans about the concert by ⁵ mistake.
Of ⁶ course you should stop being friends with him!

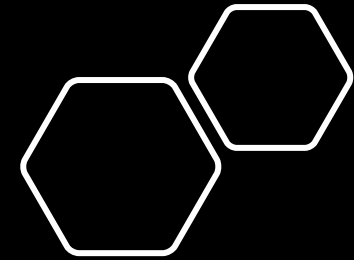
in the end 1 after a long period of time or series of events: *He tried various jobs and **in the end** became an accountant.* 2 after everything has been considered: *You can try your best to impress interviewers, but **in the end** it's often just a question of luck.*



time /taɪm/ [U, C] the time when sth happens or when sth should happen: *By the **time** you get there the meeting will be over.* • *The train arrived right on **time*** (= at exactly the correct time).



IDM **in time (for sth/to do sth)** not late; with enough time to be able to do sth: *The ambulance got there just in **time*** (= to save sb's life).



Last night, I waited for Matt, but he was late – again! So

¹**by the** / in time we got to the concert, it had already started.

²**At the** / In time, I was so angry – I don't know why he can't

be ³**on** / **by the** time for once! I tried discussing it with him,

but ⁴**in** / **at** the end I gave up. ⁵**In** / **By** the end of the evening,

we weren't speaking. I don't know how things will turn out,

but I hope that ⁶**on** / **in** time we'll be friends again.

- 1 Do you think magazines and websites offer good advice to people who write in with their problems?
- 2 Do you enjoy reading about people's problems and the advice given?
- 3 If you had a problem, would you seek advice on a forum?

