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## Prepositions

### Relations indicated by use of prepositions

We use Prepositions to show various kinds of relations among the words in sentences. Some of the most important among them are as mentioned below :

#### 1) Time

- You must return **before** sunset.
- Wait **till** tomorrow.
- We waited **for** hours.

#### 2) Place

- She ran **across** the road
- The boy fell **among** the bushes
- The thief was hiding **behind** the almirah.

#### 3) Reason and Purpose

- She died **of** malaria.
- He trembled **with** anger.
- Smoking is injurious **to** health.

#### 4) Method and manner

- The letter came **by** post.
- He cut the cake **with** a knife.
- They succeeded **by** hard work.

#### 5) Possession

- He is a man **of** principles.
- Mumbai is the financial capital **of** India.
- I saw a boy **with** red hair.

#### 6) Direction and Motion

- He fell **into** the well.
- She walked **towards** the market.

### Common Mistakes in Usage of Verb with Prepositions

Below are some very common mistakes that candidates do in use of Prepositions :

### 1) Verbs After which No prepositions are used :

**A) Resemble:** We do not use any preposition after the verb 'Resemble'. It means Resemble does not take a preposition before its object.

- **Incorrect:** This painting resembles to that painting which we saw yesterday.
- **Correct:** This painting resembles that painting which we saw yesterday.
  
- **Incorrect:** The baby resembles with her mother.
- **Correct:** The baby resembles her mother.

**B) Enter:** We do not use any Prepositions after 'Enter'

- Incorrect - We entered **into** the compound.
- Correct - We entered the compound.

**C) Discuss :**

- Incorrect - Let's discuss about your plans.
- Correct - Let's **discuss your plans.**

**D) Lack :**

- Incorrect - She lacks in tact.
- Correct -She **lacks tact.**

Same as these verbs, No prepositions are used with the verbs given below :

- Access
- Affect
- Contact
- Seek
- Reach
- Oppose
- Research
- Respect
- Obey

**2) Write:** When **write** has no direct object, we put **to** before the indirect object.

- Incorrect: He wrote me.
- Correct: He wrote to me.
  
- Incorrect: Write to me a letter.
- Correct: Write me a letter.

**3) Explain:** The verb explain is followed by direct object + preposition + indirect object.

- Incorrect: I shall explain them this.
- Correct: I shall explain **this to them**.

**4) Invite:** Invite takes the preposition to after it.

- Incorrect: He invited me to dinner.
- Correct: He invited me to dinner.

**5) Reach:** The verb reach does not take a preposition before its object.

- Incorrect: He reached to the station.
- Correct: He reached the station.

**6) Ask:** Ask is usually followed by an indirect object + direct object.

- Incorrect: She did ask any question to him.
- Correct: She did not **ask him any question**.

**7) Waste, spend**

- Incorrect: We should not waste much time in small things of less importance.
- Correct: We should not waste much time **on small things of less importance**.
  
- Incorrect: He spent a lot of money in daughter's wedding.
- Correct: He spent a lot of money **on his daughter's wedding**.

### **Common Errors in Use of Prepositions**

Some of the most common mistakes in the use of prepositions :

**1)** The prepositions **in** and **on** are used to show position. To say where things are going, we use **into** and **onto**.

- Incorrect: The ball rolled slowly in the goal.
- Correct: The ball rolled slowly **into** the goal.

- Incorrect: She ran in the room crying.
- Correct: She ran **into** the room crying.

**2)** We use **in** to say how soon something will happen. **Within** means 'inside' or 'not beyond'.

- Incorrect: The train will arrive **within** five minutes.
- Correct: The train will arrive **in** five minutes.
  
- Incorrect: You need to complete this project in a month.
- Correct: You need to complete this project within a month.
  
- Incorrect: If you don't live by your income, you will have to pay huge debts.
- Correct: If you don't live **within** your income, you will have to pay huge debts.

**3) Through** is used for movement in a three-dimensional space.

- Incorrect: The ball went **to** the window and fell on the ground.
- Correct: The ball went **through** the window and fell on the ground.

**4)** For Days, we use 'On', For Dates, we use 'On', For months we use, 'In', For seasons we use 'In', For a particular time, we use 'At'. For morning and evening, we use 'In'. For 'night', we use 'At'.

**At:** at 7 o'clock; at midday; at dinner; at Christmas

**In:** in the evening; in Easter week; in September; in (the) winter; in 1864; in the 20th century

**On:** on Friday; on April 1st; on Christmas Day

- Incorrect: He wrote the book in a month's time.
- Correct: He wrote the book in a month.
  
- Incorrect: We usually go and see Grandmother on Sunday.
- Correct: We usually go and see Grandmother on **Sundays**.

**5)** Care for means 'like' or 'be fond of'. If you care about something, you feel that it is important or interesting.

- Incorrect: I don't **care for** your opinion.
- Correct: I don't **care about** your opinion.

**6) 'Look at'** is used to gaze in a specified direction. 'To Look into' is used to investigate something.

- Incorrect: The manager has promised to look at the matter.
- Correct: To manager has promised to **look into the** matter.
  
- Incorrect: What are you looking in?
- Correct: What are you **looking at**?

**7)** Since is used for 'Point of Time'. From is used for 'Period of Time'.

- Incorrect: It has been raining from Monday.
- Correct: It has been raining **since Monday**.

**8)** One of the major error that candidates do is the use of with after 'speaking'

- Incorrect: Who is the girl you were speaking with?
- Correct: Who is the girl you were speaking to?

**Now, try to solve the following questions and post your answers in Comment Section :**

1. What are you doing \_\_\_\_\_ Saturday?
2. I am leaving \_\_\_\_\_ the afternoon. Maybe \_\_\_\_\_ three o'clock pm. I am coming back \_\_\_\_\_ Sunday evening.
3. The woman is looking \_\_\_\_\_ her daughter.
4. Do you think it is a good idea to ban smoking \_\_\_\_\_ Public Places?
5. I'll be ready to leave \_\_\_\_\_ about twenty minutes.



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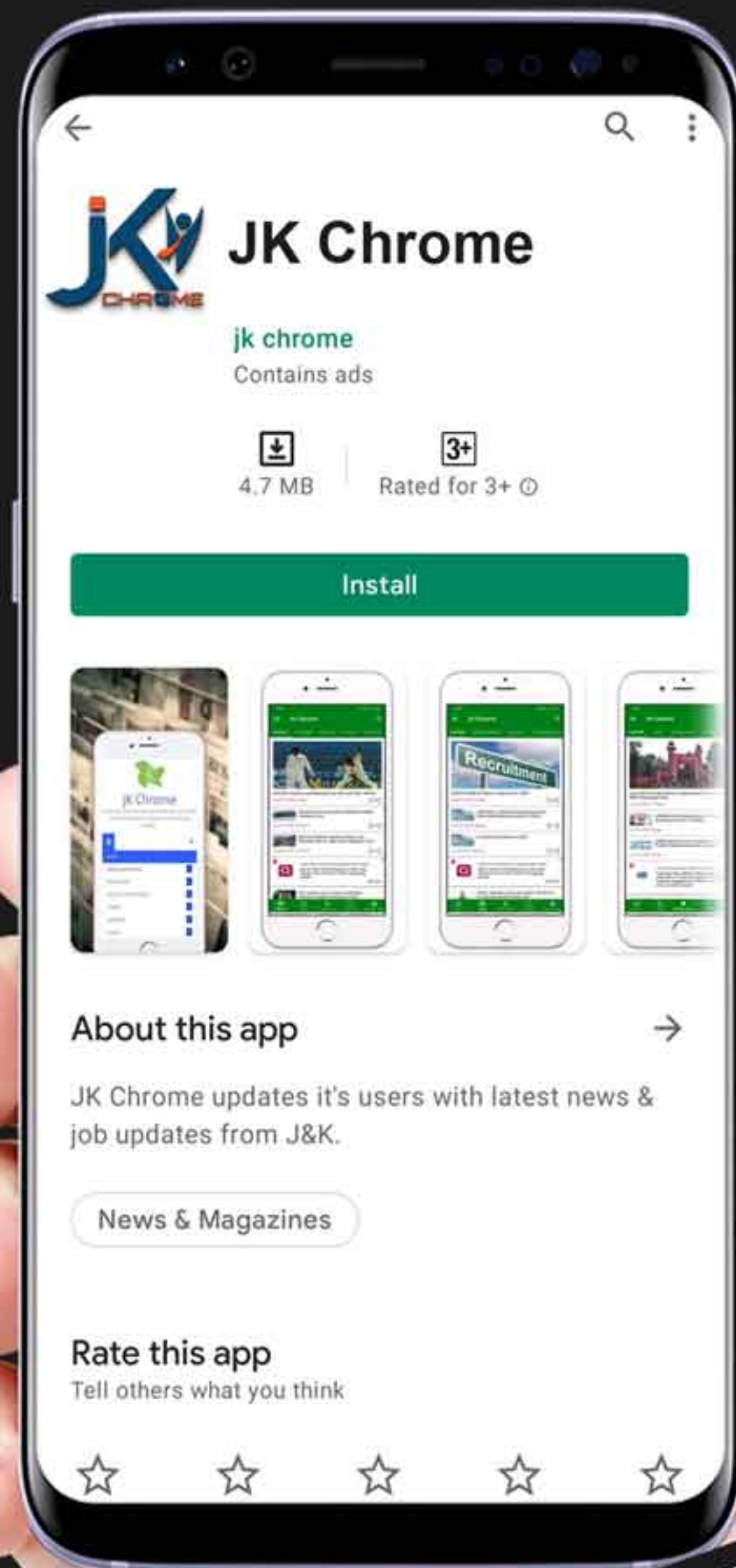
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