

第十二章 三個字片語介詞

三個以上的字結合在一起作為一個介詞用的片語即是本章所謂的三個字（除了冠詞即是三個字）片語介詞。此類片語介詞通常都是由“介詞（+冠詞）+名詞+介詞”結合而成。

1. **At the bottom of**（由…主其事，…的根源）——相當於“responsible for”，“the real cause of”。

Who's **at the bottom of** this business?

(= Who's responsible for this business?)

（誰是此一企業的主持人？）

Jealousy is **at the bottom of** it.

（嫉妒是發生這件事的主因。）

2. **At (or in) the center of**（在…的中心）

His office is **at the center of** Taipei.

（他的事務所在台北市中心。）

3. **At the conclusion of**（在…結束時）

At the conclusion of the ceremony, the audience rose to cheer the mayor.

（典禮結束時，觀眾們起立向市長歡呼。）

4. **At the cost of**（喪失、犧牲、以…作代價，花費）——相當於“at the loss or expense of”。

He saved his son from drowning, but only **at the cost of** his own life.

（他從水裡救出他的兒子，卻犧牲了他自己的生命。）

At the cost of ten thousand dollars, I bought an old car.

（我花了一萬元買了一部舊汽車。）

5. **At the end of**（在…的結尾，已到了…的盡頭）

The hero fell in love with the princess **at the end of** the story.

(在此一故事的末了，這位男主角愛上了這位公主。)

She was **at the end of** her patience.

(= She had no patience left.)

(她已忍無可忍了。)

He was **at the end of** his resources.

(他已智窮力竭了。—— 他已山窮水盡了。)

6. At the expense (or loss) of (犧牲，以…作代價) —— 相當於 “at the cost of” 。

He became a brilliant scholar, but only **at the expense of** his health.

(他成為一個卓越的學者，卻犧牲了健康。)

7. At the head of (率領，帶領) —— 相當於 “leading” 。

The captain rode horseback into the town **at the head of** his company.

(這隊長騎著馬帶領著他的隊員進城。)

8. At home in / with (精通，熟悉) —— 相當於 “familiar with” 。

It is really difficult to feel **at home in** a foreign language.

(要精通一種外國語言真難。)

Tom and John enjoy working together because they feel **at home with** each other.

(湯姆和約翰因為彼此很熟而喜歡在一起工作。)

9. At a loss for (不知道做或說些什麼才好)

He was **at a loss for** words.

(= He didn't know how to express himself.)

(他不知道說些什麼才好。)

He was **at a loss for** a word.

(= He had not thought of the word he wanted.)

(他想不出一個適當的字。)