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Quiz topic: Prepositional Phrases

1. It all happened so quickly, one minute I was making chips and the next the whole kitchen was _____ fire!
   a) on
   b) at
   c) by
   d) in

2. She never means to break anything, it’s always _____ accident!
   a) at
   b) to
   c) for
   d) by

3. He didn’t have a job for months, but _____ the end he found work as a waiter.
   a) at
   b) on
   c) in
   d) to

4. I was driving my car when ___________ I heard a loud bang – I had driven over some glass!
   a) all at once
   b) at the same time
   c) in the end
   d) at first

5. ___________! I thought the bus was never going to come.
   a) At first
   b) At last
   c) In the end
   d) At once

6. He looked so tired in class, _______ times I thought he was going to fall asleep.
   a) to
   b) in
   c) on
   d) at
Quiz topic: Prepositional Phrases

Answers:

1. It all happened so quickly, one minute I was making chips and the next the whole kitchen was _____ fire!
   
   e) on  
   f) at  
   g) by  
   h) in  

   **If something is burning, you can say it is ‘on fire’.**  
   If something is burning, it is not ‘at fire’.  
   If something is burning, it is not ‘by fire’.  
   If something is burning, it is not ‘in fire’.

2. She never means to break anything, it’s always _____ accident!
   
   e) at  
   f) to  
   g) for  
   h) by  

   ‘at accident’ is not correct.  
   ‘to accident’ is not correct.  
   ‘for accident’ is not correct.  
   **You can do something accidentally or ‘by accident’**.

3. He didn’t have a job for months, but _____ the end he found work as a waiter.
   
   e) at  
   f) on  
   g) in  
   h) to  

   If something happens eventually, after a long time, you cannot say it happened ‘at the end’.  
   If something happens eventually, after a long time, you cannot say ‘it happened ‘on the end’.  
   **If something happens eventually, after a long time, you can say ‘in the end’ it happened.**  
   If something happens eventually, after a long time, you cannot say it happened ‘to the end’.
4. I was driving my car when __________ I heard a loud bang – I had driven over some glass!

   e) all at once
   f) at the same time
   g) in the end
   h) at first

**If something happens suddenly and unexpectedly, you can say it happened ‘all at once’.
In this case you want to stress that the second action happened suddenly and unexpectedly.
If you want to say that something happened after a long time, you can say it happened eventually or ‘in the end.
Use this if you want to put things in order, e.g. ‘At first I thought this, but now I’ve changed my mind’.

5. __________! I thought the bus was never going to come.

   e) At first
   f) **At last**
   g) In the end
   h) At once

**What do you say when something happens after waiting a very long time?**
**When something happens after waiting a very long time, you say ‘At last!’**
What do you say when something happens after waiting a very long time?
What do you say when something happens after waiting a very long time?

6. He looked so tired in class, ______ times I thought he was going to fall asleep.

   e) to
   f) in
   g) on
   h) **at**

‘to times’ is not correct; which phrase means ‘occasionally’ or ‘sometimes’?
‘in times’ is not correct; which phrase means ‘occasionally’ or ‘sometimes’?
‘on times’ is not correct; which phrase means ‘occasionally’ or ‘sometimes’?
‘at times’ is correct; this phrase means ‘occasionally’ or ‘sometimes’.