

Webinars

Each of the below webinars has been recorded and archived, and is available for purchase online.

- January 18, 2011: *Finding and Analyzing Royalty Rates* by David Jarczwk.
- February 8, 2011: *Economic Outlook* by Helmut Pastrick.
- March 9, 2011: *Valuation in the Current Economic Environment* by CBVs Bill Farrell and Chris Ferrara.

Interested in presenting?

Are you a subject matter expert? If so, we'd love to hear from you. We welcome proposals for webinar topics that would be of interest to other Members and Students. Presenting is easy – you can do it right from your own office; CICBV staff will walk you through a demo ahead of time and provide technical and administrative support during your webinar. Please contact us if you are interested in becoming a presenter, or finding out more details.

Announcements, Appearances and Accolades

November 25, 2010: CBV Anish Chopra, Portfolio Manager at TD Asset Management, spoke at the CICA 2010 IFRS Conference for Financial Statement Users on *Next Steps – Advice from Portfolio Managers and Investor Relations Professionals*.

March 8, 2011: Anish Chopra was a speaker at University of Waterloo's Investment and Portfolio Management Post-Crisis Roundtable.

Anish also appears in TD Waterhouse videos on YouTube, in conversation with Patricia Lovett-Reid on investment management: Part 1 / Part 2.

Are you participating in an event, donating your time to a good cause, or have some news to share?

Please let us know — we would like to mention you or your event in the Newsletter. Contact Communications Manager, Jennifer Warlow at warlowj@cicbv.ca.

Writer's Edge

By Ingrid Sapona

Welcome to Writer's Edge — a column by Ingrid Sapona, owner of Good with Words. In her column, Ingrid will write about ways of improving your communication skills. Many of you already know Ingrid — she's been working with the CICBV and CBVs for more than 10 years and is the creator and presenter of the popular seminar: *Valuation Reports and Opinions: Your Stock In Trade* — Are they as clear as can be?

Ingrid welcomes your feedback, questions, and suggestions for topics you'd be interested in reading about. Drop Ingrid a line at: ingrid@goodwithwords.com, or call 416-259-3399.

Pesky Prepositions

Prepositions show relationships between other words. Prepositions show location, direction, time, and relationship. In the sentences below the words in bold are prepositions:

The annual general meeting concluded **at** noon.

The trial was moved **across** the hall.

The news travelled **through** the office quickly.

The proxy must be sent **with** the meeting notice.

The object of the preposition is normally a noun or pronoun that follows the preposition. The preposition and the object together are called a prepositional phrase.

Preposition Placement

Because prepositional phrases modify other words in the sentence, it is important that it is clear to the reader what the prepositional phrase modifies. Consider this sentence:

Pat valued the business **with** her partner.

It's not clear whether Pat and her partner worked together on a valuation of the business, or whether the business Pat valued was something she is engaged in with her partner. If she worked with her partner on the valuation, then it would be clearer to write: With her partner, Pat valued the business. If she valued a business the two are in together, then it's best to add words to clarify the situation — something like: Pat valued the business she and her partner are in together.

Before moving on, a brief word about the “rule” that you shouldn’t end a sentence with a preposition. The modern view is that so long as the sentence makes sense, it’s fine to end with a preposition.

Preposition Choice

Choosing the wrong preposition can have a profound impact on the meaning, or even render a sentence meaningless. Consider the following:

- (A) The offer is available **through** May.
- (B) The offer is available **to** May.

If someone made the offer in (A), could you accept it on, say, May 10? Yes, because *through* means until the end of May. Could you wait until May 10 to accept offer (B)? No, because *to* means until May.

- (C) The experts argued **about** the value.
- (D) The experts argued **to** the value.

The only difference between sentence (C) and (D) is the preposition, yet sentence (D) makes no sense. You argue *with* someone, or *about*, *against*, *over*, or *for* something — you don’t argue *to* something.

Conclusion

Choosing the wrong preposition is a usage problem, just like choosing an imprecise or wrong word. Reference lists of word pairings (call collocations) can be found but, just as you’d only turn to a dictionary if you’re in doubt about the precise meaning or spelling of a word, unless you have reason to wonder whether a particular preposition is correct, you won’t refer to a collocation.

I do have some suggestions to increase the chances of choosing the proper preposition. First, read your writing out loud. When reading silently your eyes often pass quickly over prepositions, as your brain tries to make sense of the sentence as a whole. When you read aloud, however, you hear every word and incorrect prepositions often stand out because they sound wrong.

My other advice is to remember that the function of a preposition is to show relationships, so ask yourself:

- (1) Does the preposition you've chosen show a relationship?
- (2) Does it express the relationship you intended?

For example, in (D) the preposition does not show a relationship at all. And, as between the prepositions in (A) and (B), if you meant for the offer to end on April 30, then through is the wrong preposition.

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