IDIOMS

“An idiom is an expression peculiar to a language and not explainable by principles of logic or the ordinary meaning of the individual words. Why do we say that a person is on duty, in trouble, or at work?”

Here are some common idioms in English. Most involve prepositions.

- abide by
- account for
- agree on a procedure with a person to a plan
- aim at
- alarmed at
- angry at or about something with a person
- apologize for
- argue with a person for or against something
- buy from a place for a person
- capable of
- compatible with
- comply with
- confide in
- conform to or with
- correspond to something with someone
- deficient in
- delight in
- delighted with
- deprived of
- derived from
- devoted to
- die of or from
differ from on another in appearance with a person in opinion
different from
disappointed in
disapprove of
express interest in
identical to
inconsistent with
ignorant of
independent of
indifferent to
infer from
inferior to
insist on
interfere with a performance in someone’s affairs
meet with
move on
oblivious to or of
prefer x to y
prior to
similar to
succeed in
superior to

Take care to include all prepositions needed to make an idiomatic sentence. Not the additions needed in these sentences:

1. He was oblivious ^ and undisturbed by the noise around him.
   (to)

2. No one could have been more interested ^ or devoted to his students than Mr. Berry.
   (in)

3. He is as tall, if not taller than his brother. Correct: He is as tall as his brother, if not taller.