

## Re: to unprepare

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Ekkehard Dengler wrote:

- > *Well, you did seem to imply, just like Ron, Herman and Tom, that there was*
- > *something dreadfully wrong with the sentence quoted from AP, and I assume*
- > *you wouldn't have objected to an analogous sentence such as "The west of the*
- > *city was largely unaffected by the bombing". What I've been trying to say is*
- > *that if there's anything wrong with "are unprepared for their jobs by*
- > *education colleges", it's merely that this particular adjective isn't*
- > *followed by "by" as frequently as "unaffected" and other adjectives are. I*
- > *don't think the sentence presupposes the existence of \*"unprepare", just as*
- > *the example from the CALD doesn't presuppose the existence of \*"unaffected".*
- > *Any perceived strangeness is probably due to one of those inexplicable*
- > *idiosyncrasies of English usage and has nothing to do with the scope of*
- > *negation, the logical subject of active sentences or the perfective passive.*

What's wrong with the original is partly that you can trace out what happened.

The intention :

The principals are unprepared for their jobs.

The principals are not prepared for their jobs by education colleges.

These two were coalesced into :

The principals are unprepared for their jobs by education colleges.

That though is made impossible by the emergent meaning of ``to unprepare," whether it exists beforehand or not, of taking something already prepared and making it unprepared.

That emergent meaning interferes with the plain intention of the sentence, and you get a conflicting meaning of ``to unprepare," to fail to prepare.

It is that verb that fails to exist.

The semantics in turn then falls on the grammar.

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On the internet, nobody knows you're a jerk.