

Preposition

DEFINITION

A preposition is a word that indicates the relationship between a noun and the other words of a sentence. They explain relationships of sequence, space, and logic between the object of the sentence and the rest of the sentence. They help us to understand order, time connections, and positions.

 There are a few interesting linguistic facts about preposition:

First, they are a *closed class of words* which means no new preposition gets added to the language. We use a fixed set of prepositions.

Second, prepositions do not have any other form. They cannot be plural, possessive, inflection, or anything else.

Third, most of the prepositions have many different contextual and natural uses. So, it is easy to be confused about preposition.

Fourth, sometimes a preposition works as nouns, adjectives, and adverbs. Prepositions can be of one, two, three, or even more words. Prepositions with two or more words are called **phrasal prepositions**.

PREPOSITIONS LIST

A Preposition is a word that shows the relationship between a noun or a pronoun and some other word or element in the rest of the sentence.

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|----------------|--------------|----------------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------|
| • Abroad | • As well as | • Concerning | • Into | • Off | • Till |
| • About | • Aside | • Despite | • Except | • On | • Times |
| • Above | • At | • Down | • Except for | • On account of | • To |
| • According to | • Away | • Due to | • Excluding | • On behalf of | • Toward |
| • Across | • Barring | • During | • For | • On to | • Towards |
| • After | • Because of | • In | • Following | • On top of | • Under |
| • Against | • Before | • In accordance with | • From | • Onto | • Underneath |
| • Ago | • Behind | • In addition to | • Hence | • Opposite | • Until |
| • Ahead of | • Below | • In case of | • Like | • Out | • Unto |
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KINDS OF PREPOSITIONS

1. Simple Prepositions:

Usually containing only two syllables, simple prepositions are words like **for, by, at, out, in, of, off, through, till, up, to, with.**

- I am **from** New Jersey.
- Martha is here **till** her brother gets into college.

2. Compound Prepositions:

Compound prepositions are those prepositions that are made by prefixing the preposition to a noun, an adjective or an adverb. Say for example, **amongst, amidst, above, around, along, across, about, below, beneath, beside, between, beyond, outside, within, without.**

Compound preposition: Prefix + noun/adjective/adverb

- The cat is jumping **around** the seat.
- **Amidst** all the confusion, Nancy stayed calm and saved the drowning kid.

3. Double Preposition:

When two prepositions are used together, they are called Double Prepositions. Sometimes a Compound Preposition is formed by joining two words, but unlike that, Double Prepositions are always two separate words.

Double Prepositions are formed by simple- two prepositions

- My son emerged from behind the curtains to scare me.
- Zeal is something that comes from within a person.

4. Participle Preposition:

Verbs that act as a preposition. Usually, end in -ing and -ed.

Particle preposition are verbs in disguise

- **Barring** a few minor mistakes, the play went pretty good.
- Everyone, please keep quiet **during** the class.

5. Phrase prepositions:

A Phrase preposition includes a preposition, an object and the object's modifier.

Phrase prepositions are – preposition + object + modifier

- My little brother collected my trophy on behalf of my sister.
- The show got cancelled because of the sudden rain.

KINDS OF PREPOSITIONS: ACCORDING TO FUNCTIONALITY

1. Prepositions of Time:

These Prepositions of Time denote time in the sentence. It could be a day, a time, or a period. The prepositions of time and place are almost same but what makes the difference is the usage. If we use the word to denote time, it becomes the preposition of time, while if we use it to denote place it becomes a preposition of place.

Prepositions of time	Explanations	Example
In	– Used for years / months / seasons – Used for morning / afternoon / evening – Period of time	– I went backpacking in Europe in 1999/ in May 2017/ in summertime. – I went for a run in the morning/ afternoon/ evening. – This is my first chocolate in last three years.
On	– Days / period	– I will go for a haircut on Monday. – I will go shopping on the weekend.
At	– Night – At an exact time of the day	– The moon shines at night. – We go to the sea coast every day to watch the sunrise at 5:30 am.
By	– at or before (like within), not after	– He will be back by 7 o' clock.
Since	– Range of time: from a specific time to a specific time (could be still present)	– Before that tournament, Spain hadn't won the soccer match since 1998.
Ago	– Back in time with	– The dodo birds went extinct 5

	reference to the present	centuries ago.
Till/until	– Up to the mentioned time	– Last year it rained till / until December.
From	– The beginning time of something specific	– It's been raining since from the last 2 decades. – We have been waiting for you at the dinner from 6:30 pm
To	– To tell the exact time – Used to denote before a time while giving a period	– It's quarter to ten. – We play tennis from 6 p.m to 7 p.m daily.
Past	– Used while telling the time	– It's quarter past 10.
Before	– A time earlier than	– I always reach the bus stop before 9 o' clock.
For	– A certain amount of time	– I was in Jhansi for 15 years.

2. Prepositions of Place:

These prepositions denote a place in the sentence.

Prepositions of place	Explanations	Example
In	– Used for inside	– I walked in the bedroom to find my cat and dog sleeping peacefully. – Picasso is one of the most famous artists in the world.
On	– Placement of a particular thing attached to, or next to something – Something displayed on something	– She will sing on stage tomorrow. – There's a beautiful picture of my family on the wall.

At	– An exact place where something is situated	– She met me at the North main street. – My mother is not at home.
Between	– into/in the gap that separates two things, people or places	– The river lies between Rome and Milan. – She placed the chess board between the two players.
Behind	– in the backside of something	– There's a key holder behind the door. – My mom is sitting behind the tree in our garden.
Below	– Under something or lower than something	– Sheela lives below my flat in South Bombay. – Jennifer is going below the tree house to pick the fruits.
Under	– Right below, lower than something	– There's a mouse under my chair. – Let's get under the umbrella as it's starting to drizzle.

Over	– Across specific sides – Stacked one above other, higher than the other – More than	– The annual college fees for my course is over 200k. – Over the mountain, there's my grandmother's house in Hamptons. – The chocolate bricks were stacked over one another in the bakery.
Across	– On the other side – in a specific area, from one side to the other	– I walked across the road. – My cousin sailed across the Pacific ocean.
Above	– Higher than something, but not directly higher than something	– She lives above my flat in Ohio. – A captain is above a sergeant.
Next to, Beside, near, by	– around something and not far away	– There's a tree next to / beside / by / near my house. – There's a play station next to / beside / by / near my friend's house.
Through	– From inside one end to another	– We walked slowly through the woods. – We went through the crowd towards the stage.
To	– In a direction	– We went to Italy last summer.

		– Bobby, please go to bed.
Into	– Go inside something	– I dived into the pool. – I got lost into the forest.

3. Prepositions of Direction:

These prepositions show the direction of something.

- She dived into the river.
- All students walked towards the assembly hall.

4. Prepositions of Agent:

These prepositions act as an agent between a noun and usually a verb.

- Harry Potter was written by J.K Rowling.
- Hanah graduated with an honours degree.

5. Prepositions of Manner:

It is all about how a certain thing happened or is done. Sometimes it is even referred to as Prepositions of Method. These include words like on, by, with, like, etc.

The most commonly used Prepositions of Manner are “by” and “with”. We make use of ‘By’ whenever we talk about actions and it is usually followed by the gerund (verb + -ing) or a noun, while we make use of ‘With’ to talk about objects or tools that are used to achieve something and it is often followed by a noun.

‘By’ is used as –By + noun OR By + -ing + noun

‘With’ is used as – with + noun

For example:

- He will die by the sword. (the sword will be the manner of his death)
- He faces danger with courage. (he is courageous when faced with danger)

6. Prepositions of possession:

These are used to express that something belongs to a person, animal or thing.

The main prepositions used to show possession are:

of: of + nouns/possessive pronouns;

to: to + object pronouns;

with: with + adjectives/nouns.

Example:

Of

- These are the most important monuments of London.
- Dublin is the capital of Ireland.
- She is a friend of mine.

To

- This towel belongs to me.

With

- I saw a boy with brown eyes.
- She spoke with a German accent.

7. Prepositions of cause and effect:

Prepositions of cause and effect or reason are used to express the cause of something or the reason that something happens, and the effect it has on another thing.

To:

‘To’ is usually used to show the purpose of the noun. This preposition joins a noun with a verb.

- We use coal in hydraulic plants to make electricity.
- She ran to deliver the mail before the bus left.
- My baby sister always goes to our father to ask for sweets.

For:

This is also used to show the purpose of the noun. This preposition joins a noun with usually another noun or an adjective. If it joins the noun with a verb, usually the verb is in its gerund form.

- I need a fine profile for getting a job at the Wall Street.
- Thank you for bringing us a casserole while our mom is out of town.
- My cat goes out in the garden for emptying her bowels.

Because of/ on account of:

Joining a verb with the noun, this preposition is pretty straight up. It shows the reason of the happening.

- I need to stay home because of my naughty brother.
- The moon shines because of the sun.
- On account of the flight delay caused, the Prime minister will reach the office later than expected.

Owing to:

It shows a cause.

- Owing to the brilliant example set by Ellen Degeneres, she received a Medal of Freedom by President Obama.

Alternatively, you can use words like **due to, by courtesy of, by reason of, by virtue of, for the benefit of, in favour of, in honour of, in the light of, on behalf of, thanks to, or towards**. All these words are Prepositions of Cause and can do the job well.