

PREPOSITION

1. There is a cow in the field.
2. He is fond of tea.
3. The cat jumped off the chair.

In sentence 1, the word in shows the relation between two things -cow and field.

In sentence 2, the word of shows the relation between the attribute expressed by the adjective fond and tea.

In sentence 3, the word off shows the relation between the action expressed by the verb jumped and the chair!

The words in, of, off are here used as Prepositions.

A Preposition is a word placed before a noun or a pronoun to show in what relation the person or thing denoted by it stands in regard to something else.

[The word Preposition means 'that which is placed before'.]

It will be noticed that-

in sentence 1, the Preposition joins a Noun to another Noun;

in sentence 2, the Preposition joins a Noun to an Adjective;

in sentence 3, the Preposition joins a Noun to a Verb.

(1) Simple Prepositions

at, by, for, from, in, of, off, on, out, through, till, to, up, with.

(2) Compound Prepositions which are generally formed by prefixing a Preposition (usually a = no or be = by) to a Noun, an Adjective or an Adverb.

About, above, across, along, amidst, among, amongst, around, before, behind, below, beneath, beside, between, beyond, inside, outside, underneath, within, without.

(3) Phrase Prepositions (Groups of words used with the force of a single preposition.)

according to agreeably to along with away from because of by dint of by means of by reason of by virtue of by way of conformably to for the sake of	in accordance with in addition to in (on) behalf of in case of in comparison to in compliance with in consequence of in course of in favour of in front of in lieu of in order to	in place of in reference to in regard to in spite of instead of in the event of on account of owing to with a view to with an eye to with reference to with regard to
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Read the following sentences:

He succeeded **by dint of** perseverance and sheer hard work.

In case of need, phone 32567.

By virtue of the power vested in me, I hereby order, etc.

In consequence of his illness, he could not finish the work in time.

Owing to his ill health, he retired from business.

With reference to your letter of date, we regret we cannot allow any further rebate.

In order to avoid litigation, he accepted Rs. 30,000 in full settlement of his claim for Rs. 42,000.

In course of time, he saw his mistake.

He died fighting **on behalf of** his country.

On behalf of the staff, he read the address.

He persevered **in spite of** difficulties.

In the event of his dying without an issue, his nephew would inherit the whole property.

Instead of talking, prove your worth by doing something.

By reason of his perverse attitude, he estranged his best friends.

He acted **according to** my instructions.

Why don't you go **along with** your brother?

In accordance with your instructions, we have remitted the amount to your bankers.

There is a big tree **in front of** his house.

Agreeably to the terms of the settlement, we herewith enclose our cheque for Rs. 1000.

By way of introduction, he made some pertinent remarks.

By means of rope ladders they scaled the wall.

For the sake of their beliefs, the Puritans emigrated to America.

In course of his researches he met with many difficulties.

He abdicated the throne **in favour of** his eldest son.

He could not attend school **because of** his father's serious illness.

He accepted the car **in lieu of** his claim for Rs. 3,25,000.

With a view to an amicable settlement, we offer you without prejudice Rs. 7500 in full settlement of all your claims UpToDate.

On account of his negligence the company suffered a heavy loss.

Whatever he does, he does with **an eye to** the main chance.

4. Participial Prepositions:

Barring (= excepting, apart from) accident, the mail will arrive tomorrow.

Concerning (= about) yesterday's fire, there are many rumours in the bazar.

Considering (= taking into account) the quality, the price is not high.

Notwithstanding (= in spite of) the resistance offered by him, he was arrested by the police.

Pending further orders, Mr. Desai will act as Headmaster.

Regarding your inquiries, we regret to say that at present we are not interested in imitation silk.

Respecting the plan you mention, I shall write to you hereafter.

Touching (= with regard to) this matter, I have not as yet made up my mind.

➤ **Relations Expressed by Prepositions**

The following are some of the most common relations indicated by Prepositions:

(1) Place; as,

Went about the world; ran across the road; leaned against a wall; fell among thieves; quarrelled among themselves ; at death's door; sit on deck; stood before the door; stood behind the curtain; lies below the surface; sat beside me; plies between Mumbai and Alibag; stand by me; rain comes from the clouds; in the sky; fell into a ditch; lies near his heart; Kolkata is on the Hooghly; the cliff hangs over the sea; tour round the world; marched through the town ; came to the end of the road; put pen to paper; travelled towards Nasik; lay under the table; climbed up the ladder ; lies upon the table; within the house;

(2) Time; as,

After his death; at an early date; arrived before me; behind time; by three o'clock; during the whole day; for many years; from 1st April; in the afternoon; sat watching far on into the night; lived under the Moghuls; on Monday: pending his return; since yesterday; lasted through the night; throughout the year; wait till to-morrow; ten minutes to twelve; towards evening; until his arrival; rise with the sun; within a month.

(3) Agency, instrumentality; as,

Sell goods at auction; sent the parcel by post; was stunned by a blow; was destroyed by fire; heard this through a friend; cut it with a knife.

(4) Manner; as,

Dying by inches; fought with courage; worked with earnestness, won with ease.

(5) Cause, reason, purpose; as,

Laboured for the good of humanity; died of fever; the very place for a picnic; did it for our good; suffers from gout; died from fatigue; does it from perversity; retreated through fear of an ambush; concealed it through shame; lost his purse through negligence; shivers with fever; took medicine for cold.

(6) Possession; as,

There was no money on him; the mosque of Omar; a man of means; the boy with red hair.

(7) Measure, standard, rate, value; as,

He charges interest at nine per cent. Stories like these must be taken at what they are worth. Cloth is sold by the yard. I am taller than you by two inches. It was one by the tower-clock.

(8) Contrast, concession; as,

After (in spite of, notwithstanding) every effort, one may fail. For one enemy he has a hundred friends. For (in spite of) all his wealth he is not content. With (in spite of) all his faults I admire him.

(9) Inference, motive, source, or origin; as,

From what I know of him, I hesitate to trust him. The knights were brave from gallantry of spirit. He did it from gratitude. Light emanates from the sun. From labour health, from health contentment springs. This is a quotation from Milton. His skill comes from practice.