

Lecture 13

Prepositions

Introduction

Prepositions are a fundamental part of English grammar, connecting nouns, pronouns, and phrases to other words in a sentence. They help clarify the relationships of time, place, direction, and more. Mastery of prepositions is crucial for clear and precise communication.

1. Definition and Importance of Prepositions

- Definition: A preposition is a word that links a noun, pronoun, or phrase to other words within a sentence.
- Importance: Prepositions are essential for expressing relationships between different parts of a sentence, providing context, and aiding in the construction of complex sentences.

2. Types of Prepositions

1. Prepositions of Time:

- Examples: at, on, in, before, after
- Usage:
 - "At" is used for specific times: at 3 PM, at midnight
 - "On" is used for days and dates: on Monday, on January 1st
 - "In" is used for longer periods: in the morning, in 2020

2. Prepositions of Place:

- Examples: at, on, in, under, over, between, among
- Usage:
 - "At" is used for specific points: at the station, at the door

- "On" is used for surfaces: on the table, on the wall
- "In" is used for enclosed spaces: in the room, in the car

3. Prepositions of Direction:

- Examples: to, towards, into, through, across
- Usage:
 - "To" indicates direction: go to the office
 - "Towards" implies movement in a direction: walk towards the park
 - "Into" suggests entering a space: run into the room

4. Prepositions of Manner:

- Examples: by, with, like, as
- Usage:
 - "By" indicates the means: travel by train
 - "With" suggests using something: write with a pen
 - "Like" shows similarity: act like a hero

5. Prepositions of Reason/Purpose:

- Examples: for, because of, due to
- Usage:
 - "For" indicates purpose: study for the exam
 - "Because of" and "due to" show cause: late because of traffic, due to illness

3. Compound Prepositions

- Compound prepositions are formed by combining two or more words.

- Examples: according to, because of, in front of, instead of
- Usage:
 - "According to" introduces a source: according to the report
 - "Because of" indicates reason: because of the rain
 - "In front of" shows position: in front of the building

4. Prepositional Phrases

- A prepositional phrase begins with a preposition and ends with a noun or pronoun, called the object of the preposition.
 - Examples: in the morning, at the park, on the table
 - Importance: Prepositional phrases provide additional details and context in a sentence.

5. Common Mistakes and How to Avoid Them

1. Using the Wrong Preposition:

- Incorrect: She is good in math.
- Correct: She is good at math.

2. Omitting Necessary Prepositions:

- Incorrect: We discussed the project.
- Correct: We discussed the project with our team.

3. Adding Unnecessary Prepositions:

- Incorrect: Where are you going to?
- Correct: Where are you going?

6. Practice and Application

- Exercise 1: Fill in the Blanks

1. She arrived ____ the airport ____ 6 PM.
2. The book is ____ the table.
3. He walked ____ the room.
4. I studied hard ____ the exam.

- Exercise 2: Identify the Prepositional Phrases

1. The cat slept under the table.
2. She danced with grace.
3. We met at the coffee shop.

- Exercise 3: Correct the Mistakes

1. He is interested for music.
2. They moved on a new house.
3. I am waiting since two hours.

7. Advanced Usage of Prepositions

- Prepositions in Idiomatic Expressions:

- Examples: in time, on time, in charge of, on behalf of
- Explanation: Idiomatic expressions often contain prepositions that do not follow standard rules and must be learned as fixed phrases.

- Prepositions with Verbs (Phrasal Verbs):

- Examples: give up, look after, run into

- Explanation: Phrasal verbs combine verbs with prepositions or adverbs to create new meanings.

8. Conclusion

Understanding and correctly using prepositions is vital for effective communication in English. Practice regularly, pay attention to common usage patterns, and don't be afraid to consult a dictionary or grammar resource when in doubt.

Recommended Reading

1. English Grammar in Use by Raymond Murphy
2. Practical English Usage by Michael Swan
3. The Elements of Style by William Strunk Jr. and E.B. White