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Prepositions in Verbal Ability -Concept, Tips & Practice Exercises for Placement Tests, Jobs & Exams

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20 Important Prepositions

At, In, On, Into, To, Upon, For,

From, Since, Till, By, Among,

Between, With, Above, Over,

Under, Below, Of, Off

Kshipra Singh,
Co-founder, CareerRide

[CareerRide.com](https://www.CareerRide.com)

✦ In today's video, we will learn 20 commonly used prepositions and how to avoid common mistakes when using them.

▶ 0:11

20 Important Prepositions

Common reasons for mistakes:

- Translate things as it is from our mother tongue into English
- Using a preposition (when it is not needed)
- Missing out the preposition (when needed)

Kshipra Singh,
Co-founder, CareerRide

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✦ Common mistakes in the use of prepositions arise from directly translating phrases from one's native language into English.

▶ 0:37

At, In, On

• At – To denote a specific point of time

E.g. i.) She reached home at 4 o'clock.

ii.) The flight departs at 16:15

• At – With phrases denoting time

E.g. at night, at midnight, at noon, at sunrise, at sunset

i.) I don't drink tea at night

ii.) I could clearly see the comet in the clear sky at sunrise

See these: I don't drink tea in the morning

I met him outside the bank in the afternoon

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✦ The preposition "at" is used to denote a specific point of time, such as "she reached home at four o'clock."

▶ 1:39

At, In, On

• At – Referring to buildings in the city as locations

E.g. i.) I'll meet you at the railway station

ii.) Rahul works at a private bank on Cross Road

iii.) We usually meet for drinks at the club

• At – Phrases like "at home", "at work", "at play"

i.) I prefer to spend my weekends at home, watching the new web series.

ii.) I was at work when the earthquake struck.

See this: I drove home to meet my Aunt

I'm reaching home in 5 minutes, said father.

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✦ Meeting at the club is a popular choice for socializing over drinks, but many people prefer to spend their weekends at home indulging in their favorite web series.

▶ 5:21

At, In, On

✦ At – When referring to small towns/ villages

E.g. I stay at Rawatbhata

My parents used to work at Bharatpur in Rajasthan

See this: i.) We stayed at Mumbai for a night before leaving for Bangalore.

ii.) I stay in Mumbai and work here.

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✦ Understanding the correct prepositions to use when referring to small towns and big cities can be intriguing, as it reveals a fascinating linguistic pattern.

▶ 6:51

At, In, On

• In – Before years and months

In 2005, In January

E.g. i.) I came to Pune in July 2007

See this: i.) I came to Pune on 5th December 2021.

ii.) Let's meet on Saturday. It's a holiday for me.

• In – With words like morning, evening, afternoon or the names of seasons

E.g. i.) Let's sleep. We'll discuss this in the morning.

ii.) Hot beverages sell very fast in winters.

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✦ Using the preposition "in" before years and months helps to specify when an event or action occurred.

▶ 9:24

At, In, On

• In – When you mean inside something (the object is stationary now)

E.g. i.) If you intend to work in Mumbai, get used to travelling in crowded buses and trains

ii.) I have kept a new plant in the garden today

iii.) I met them in the theatre this morning.

• In – After a period of time

E.g. Be there. I'll meet you in 5 minutes.

She will return in a week. (at the expiry of this time)

See this: She promised to finish the work within a week (before the expiry of given time)

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✦ Mumbai commuters face crowded buses and trains as they travel to work, while a new plant finds its place in the garden and a chance encounter occurs at the theater.

▶ 12:13

In, Into, To

- **Into** – Expresses movement towards/ in the direction something. The medium changes.

E.g. i.) After a long wait, I stepped into the doctor's cabin.

ii.) On my way back, I ran into a dust storm.

iii.) Pour the juice into the glass.

- **Into** – Conveys "change into something"

E.g. i.) Translating the paragraph from English into French was difficult.

ii.) Divide the dough into 5 equal parts

See this: I changed into a comfortable night dress, after the party.

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✦ English is undergoing a transformation as it divides into five equal parts, altering its appearance.

▶ 16:46

In, Into, To

- **Into** – Conveys high level of interest or enthusiasm.

E.g. i.) She's really into music.

ii.) He talks about Sarah all day. He is really into her.

- ✓ **Into** – Common phrasal verb mistake

- i.) Investigate into

E.g. The crime branch is investigating the matter.

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✦ Common phrasal verb mistakes, such as using "investigating into," are often tested by examiners, but it is incorrect to use "into" with the word investigate.

▶ 19:03

In, Into, To

• Into – Common phrasal verb mistakes

- i.) Enter – Used for entering physical spaces (buildings, location)

E.g. ii.) We entered the office and met the coordinator

- Enter into – For contracts, agreements, discussions (starting or joining something)

E.g. i.) I have decided to enter into an agreement with him.

ii.) I entered into a discussion with the chef.

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✦ A discussion on entering into an agreement with a chef sparks interest and importance.

▶ 20:19

In, Into, To

• To – For movement

E.g. i.) We walked to the café for breakfast

ii.) We are flying to Jaipur for a wedding tomorrow morning

iii.) Every evening I go to the library.

See this: We arrived at the airport on time.

• To – When start and end time are specified.

E.g. The café is open from 7 am to 9 pm.

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✦ The preposition "to" is used to indicate movement, as demonstrated by examples such as walking to a cafe for breakfast or flying to Jaipur.

▶ 20:47

On, Upon

- **On – With days and dates**

E.g. i.) I'll be there for the meeting on Thursday

ii.) Let's interview the new candidate on 5th September

- **On – Position, when the thing is at rest.**

E.g. i.) The dish lay on the table.

ii.) I noticed some dirt on the shirt.

See this: She went to the temple on foot.

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✦ In this English lesson, we will discuss the correct usage of prepositions "on" and "upon" in relation to days, dates, months, and years.

▶ 22:13

On, Upon ✓

- **Upon – Things in motion**

E.g. The cat sprang upon the bed

- **Upon – Event or time very near to you.**

E.g. i.) Diwali is almost upon us.

ii.) The wedding date is almost upon us.

- **Upon – Immediately after something happens**

E.g. Rohan joined a course in Solar Power immediately upon finishing his Intermediate

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✦ Commonly confused prepositions can be clarified to improve understanding and correct usage.

▶ 25:07

For, From, Since ✓

• For – To denote period of time. ✓

E.g. i.) I have been waiting here for two hours.

ii.) I have lived in Amsterdam for four years.

✓ From – Specific point of time is provided

E.g. i.) The shop is open from 7am to 9pm everyday

ii.) I lived in Mumbai from Dec'2020 to Jan 2022

• Since – Denoting some point of time

i.) I have lived in Mumbai since 2005

ii.) I have been painting this picture since last evening

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✦ A Mumbai resident explains the use of the preposition "from" to denote a specific time period.

▶ 30:20

Till, By ✓

• Till – Upto/ not earlier than ✓

E.g. i.) Don't worry. The medical store is open till 11 pm.

ii.) I'm here till 5 pm

• By – not later than this

E.g. Be quick. The doctor leaves by 9 pm.

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✦ Understanding the correct usage of "till" when referring to a specific point in time is crucial, as it signifies that something will not happen before that designated time.

▶ 31:49

Among, Between

✓ Among – Conveys inclusion

- E.g., i.) Discuss it among yourselves before coming to me, said the Principal.
ii.) I was among the last to board the ship.
iii.) I didn't like his attitude towards the poor among other things.

• Among – In the middle of someone or something

- E.g. i.) A deer among the tigers is an easy prey.
ii.) You feel safe among friends.

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✦ Students advised to discuss matters among themselves before approaching the principal.

▶ 33:50

Among, Between

✦ Among – while dividing or distributing something and there are more than two people or things to take it

E.g. Let's distribute these old clothes and blankets among the poor

See this: i.) Distribute the sweets between Sita and Geeta

ii.) The trade agreement was signed between India, Nepal and Bangladesh
(Individual relationships)

(A trade agreement already exists among Asian countries) (Group or Mass Nouns)

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✦ The usage of the preposition "among" is crucial when dividing or distributing something among more than two people or things.

▶ 36:45

Among, Between

- **Between** – Connecting or separating two or more places, people or things

E.g. i.) The new train between Howrah and Mumbai reduces the travel time by three hours.

ii.) The new research tries to show a link between testosterone levels and hospitalization due to Covid in males

iii.) What's the difference between these two models?

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- ✦ The new train between Havra and Mumbai reduces travel time by three hours, connecting the two cities.

▶ 40:08

By, With

⇒ Easy

- ✦ **By** – Place, transport, communication mode, method of payment, time, reflexive pronoun, agent

E.g. i.) My restaurant is by the sea.

ii.) I'm travelling by train after a long time.

iii.) I'll be home by 5 pm (deadline)

iv.) I love playing by myself

See this: The tiger was killed by the hunter with a bullet

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- ✦ A restaurant owner describes the location of their establishment by the sea.

▶ 42:58

Above, Over, Under, Below ✓

• Above/ Below – Height in the sense of level

- E.g. i.) 500 m above the sea level
ii.) 60% population of the city is lives above the poverty level
iii.) He'll have to score above average marks to make through.

• Over/ Under – Height in vertical sense, touch, motion

- E.g. i.) The fan is over my head / The cat is sitting under my chair
ii.) The cat jumped over the wall
iii.) Spread the sand over the ground

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✦ Understanding the concepts of above, over, under, and below can make these commonly confused words much easier to grasp.

▶ 45:56

Of, off ✓

• Of – Cause, reason, possession, source, content,

- E.g. i.) Tomorrow is a holiday on account of Christmas.
ii.) He died of AIDS
iii.) The color of this wall is white.
iv.) A bottle of electrolyte is all I need right now

• Off – separation, detached condition

- E.g. i.) The restaurant is off the main road.
ii.) The discussion was off the topic.
iii.) The kettle fell off the table
iv.) Switch off the lights

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✦ Understanding the difference between "off" and "of" can help clarify cause, reason, possession, source, or content.

▶ 51:52

Practice Questions

Fill in the blanks:

i.) The crowd waiting ____ the pandal turned violent after some time. (**under**, below)

ii.) We entered ____ the classroom (**φ**, in, into)

✦ Learn how to improve your verbal ability skills for placement tests and entrance exams with this informative video on prepositions.

▶ 56:30