

## MEETING 5

# P R E P O S I T I O N S

### A. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To explain various prepositions.
2. To explain changes of meanings when the prepositions followed or preceded by other parts of speech.

### B. THE AIMS OF THE TOPIC

1. Students are expected to understand various prepositions.
2. Students are expected to understand the meaning of parts of speech (noun, verb, adj) followed by prepositions.

### C. GUIDANCE AND METHODS OF LEARNING

1. Lectures
2. Discussions
3. Presentations
4. Practices

### D. MATERIAL DESCRIPTION

## I. INTRODUCTION

### MOUNT ST. HELENS

Mount St. Helens, a volcano in the states of Washington in the United States, erupted on May 18, 1980. Sixty-two people died due to the eruption. No one was surprised by the eruption of Mount St. Helens. Scientists had been predicting that eruption was likely for almost two years before it happened.

In March 1980 a small eruption occurred and in April one side of the mountain started to swell and crack. The scientists issued warnings and asked people to clear the area. On May 18 the mountain exploded. Hot gases burst out, followed by hot ash, which ran down the mountain slopes burning everything in its path. Cities and towns were covered with powder. The ash from the volcano was found as far as the Atlantic Ocean, on the other side of the continent.

The top of the mountain was blown away about 600 square kilometers (230 miles) of land was destroyed, killing both animals and plants. Many thought it would take decades for the land to recover, but the return of life was remarkable. Today the slopes and valleys of Mount St. Helens once again have abundant wildlife.

**Exercise 1:** Prepositions are tested on the TOEFL Test. Complete the sentences with the correct prepositions.

1. Mount St. Helens erupted ..... May 18, 1980.
2. Scientists had predicted that an eruption was likely, so no one was surprised ..... it.
3. .... April 1980 one side.....the mountain started to swell.
4. The explosion of hot gases was followed .....hot ash.
5. Cities were covered.....ash from the mountain.
6. The ash .....the mountain went as far as the Atlantic Ocean.....the other side of the continent.

**Exercise 2:** Look at the chart below showing natural disasters. Describe the disaster, including where it occurred, and what happened due to the disaster.

Disaster	Where	When	What happened
Volcanic eruption	Krakatoa, Indonesia	August 27, 1883	36,000 people died
Potato famine	Ireland	1840s	1,5 million people died
Flood	Johnstown, Pennsylvania	May 1889	2,200 people died
Earthquake	Tangshan, China	July 28, 1976	242,000 people died
Tidal wave	Bangladesh	1970	200,000 people died
Tornado	Ohio, US	April 3, 1974	315 people died
Fire	Yellowstone Park, US	1980	1.3 million

A volcanic eruption occurred in Krakatoa on August 27, 1883. Due to the eruption, 36,000 people died.

## II. GRAMMAR: PREPOSITIONS

Prepositions are not only used to show time, place, and agent but are also used in combination with verbs, adjectives, nouns, and in many common set expressions. All prepositions cannot be listed in this chapter, but it will present the important groups:

1. Verb + preposition: depend on, lead to
2. Adjective/participle + preposition: surprised at, famous for
3. Noun + preposition: example of, possibility of
4. Other combination with Preposition: as a result of, possibility of
5. Prepositions of Time and Place: on May 16, in Washington
6. Prepositions in Common Expressions: at present, in general

### STRATEGY

Since the use of prepositions and their rules can be very confusing for many learners of English, it is best to learn as many preposition as possible in combination with other words. Errors on the exam may include the wrong preposition being used or a preposition being omitted where it should not be.

1. Verb + preposition

Account for	contribute to	insist on	plan on
Believe in	depend on lead to	rely on	
Belong to	detach from	obtain from	result in
Fight for	confined to	overcome by	withdraw for

**Exercise 3:** complete the sentences with the correct prepositions

1. The destructive phenomena of Mt. St. Helens were not confined..... volcanic debris.
2. Valuable chemical products are obtained .....volcanic substances, including gold and silver.
3. The 1989 San Francisco earthquake resulted .....59 deaths and massive property damage.
4. One growing season after another without rain quickly leads .....starvation in many parts of the world.
5. Disease can sometimes be overcome.....advances in modern medicine.
6. Since the Irish depended .....their potato crop for food, the potato famine had devastating results.
7. Poor farming practices contributed .....the dust bowl as much as weather conditions.
8. When there is famine in a country, the people must rely .....the goodwill of other countries provide them with the food they need.

**2. Adjective/participle + preposition:**

Accustomed to	different from	necessary for	responsible for
Afraid of	expert at	opposed to	successful in
Based on	free from	possible for	surprised at
Compared to	famous for	related to	typical of

**Exercise 4:** Complete the sentences with the correct prepositions

1. The 1980 Mt. St. Helens eruption ranks low compared.....other volcanic eruptions.

2. Some people think it is necessary .....forest fire to happen occasionally so that new trees will grow.
3. Typical .....American enterprise, a thriving cottage industry developed in marketing the ash from Mt. St. Helens.
4. Volcanic ash in the atmosphere is responsible.....brilliant red sunsets and sunrises.
5. The earth looks very different from .....the way it looked millions of years ago.
6. The type of gas ejected from a volcanic eruption is elated .....the volcano and the type of eruption.
7. Countries whose economy is entirely based.....agriculture suffers most when a crop fails.
8. People were surprised.....the amount of destruction the eruption of Mt. St. Helens caused.

### 3. Noun + preposition: example of, possibility of

Cause of	equivalent of	influence on	result of
Cost of	evidence of	need for	use of
Danger of	example of	possibility of	solution to
Effect on	increase in	reason for	supply of

**Exercise 5:** complete the sentences with the correct preposition!

1. Mount St. Helens exploded in an eruption with the energy equivalent.....10 million tons of TNT.
2. With the ever growing need .....power, volcanoes and their byproducts are of increasing value.
3. To the scientist, volcanoes provide first-hand evidence.....the composition of the earth.
4. An example.....an island that consists entirely of volcanic material is Iceland.

5. Iceland, Italy, New Zealand, and the State of California make practical use.....volcanic steam.
6. The El Chichon eruption in Mexico had the greatest effect .....the world's weather.
7. In recent years, the crater of Vesuvius has been sealed off to lessen danger .....another explosion.
8. Plague and famine can be results.....social problems within a community.

#### 4. Other combination with Preposition: as a result of, possibility of

According to	as a consequence of	as a result of
Because of	by means of	in addition to
In spite of	in terms of	in the process of
In view of	on account of	on behalf of
On the basis of	prior to	with the exception of
		With the purpose of

#### Exercise 6: Complete the sentences with the correct prepositions

1. According.....some reports, the effect of the tsunami from Krakatoa was felt 11,000 miles away.
2. In addition.....seismographs, tilt meters measure deformations of the surface before volcanic activity.
3. The loss in terms.....individual trees after the Mt. St. Helens eruption came to six million.
4. Airplanes and trains were affected because.....poor visibility after the eruption.
5. In view .....their devastating results.....the Mt. St. Helens eruption.
6. Thirty-five people died as a result.....the Mt. St. Helens eruption.

7. In spite .....the death and destruction volcanoes cause, they benefit the land in many ways.
8. prior.....the eruption, a 300-foot bulge was observed on one side of Mt. St. Helens.

## 5. Prepositions of Time and Place: on May 16, in Washington

### a. Preposition of Time

at	Time of day (at 7pm) Noon, night, midnight
in	Parts of day (in the morning, in the night) Month (July) Season (in summer) Year (in 2019) Decade (in 2010s) Days of week (on Saturday) Dates (on March 20)
	Duration of time (for three days) Point in time (since March 20)
	Beginning time... ending (from 7am to
at	Address (at 200 main Street)
on	Street, road, avenue (on Kings Road) Floor (on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor).
In	Building (in the bookstore) City (in Los Angeles) State (in California) Country (in Japan) Continent (in Africa)
From...to...	Begging ...point ending point (from Pamulang to Viktor)

**Exercise 7:** Complete the sentences with the correct prepositions.

1. Mt. St. Helens had last erupted .....in 1857.
2. Mt. St. Helens exploded .....about 8 am.....Sunday.
3. The eruption was.....May 18, 1980.
4. ....the summer of 1816 the weather.....the United States was affected by volcanic activity.
5. Mount St. Helens is .....the state of Washington.
6. The Volcano Paricutin.....Mexico erupted.....1943.
7. Before the eruption, Mt. St. Helens was in one of the most beautiful areas.....North America.
8. Most houses.....Rejkjavik.....Iceland are heated by natural steam.
9. Mt. St. Helens started to be active.....March 20.....May 18, 1980.
10. A chain of volcanoes runs .....the East Indies.....the Mediterranean.

#### 6. Prepositions in Common Expressions: at present, in general

At times	by land/sea/air	in common	on fire
At present	by far	in general	on the other hand
At first/last	by chance	in existence	on the whole
At the moment	by accident	in the future/past	on purpose
	by day/night	in theory	on land

**Exercise 8:** Complete the sentences with the correct prepositions

1. volcanoes.....land are best known, but those beneath the sea sometimes make headline news.
2. ....times volcanoes have affected world weather.
3. ....theory, volcanic eruptions are difficult to classify.
4. There are about 500 volcanoes.....existence.
5. It looked as if the mountains were.....fire.



6. Volcanic ash is destructive; .....the other hand, it later produces a very fertile soil.
7. ....general, a temperature of 100°C is reached at about 10,000 feet in the earth crust.
8. Mount St. Helens was.....far the most publicized eruption in recent times.

### III. On the TOEFL Test

Prepositions are tested in the Written Expression Section of the exam. Check for these two types of errors with prepositions:

1. The wrong preposition used, example:

- Mount St. Helens, a volcano in Washington state in the United States, erupted  

A
B
C

in May 18 1980.  
D

- ➔ The correct answer is C: The preposition *on* must be used before a date (*in* is used before month without a date).

- After the eruption of Mount St. Helens in 1980, the height of the mountain was  

A
B
C

reduced of 400 meters.  
D

- ➔ The correct answer is D; the preposition *by* should be used after the verb “reduce” in this sentence.

2. A preposition may be omitted or a preposition may be used when it is not necessary, example:

- Despite of its isolation in the Sunda Strait between Java and Sumatra, over

A

B

C

30,000 people died in the tidal waves following in the explosion of Krakatoa.

D

- ➔ The correct answer is A; the preposition *of* should not be used in this phrase (*of* is used in the phrase *in spite of*, but *despite*, which has the same meaning, does not take a preposition).

- According expertts, 60,000 cubic feet of earth was thrown into the air

A

B

C

in the explosion of Mount St. Helens.

D

- ➔ The best answer is A: The preposition *to* has been omitted from the phrase *according to*

#### IV. EXERCISES ON PREPOSITIONS

Directions: Identify one of the underlined words or phrases A, B, C, OR D that should be rewritten or corrected

1. The rocky island of Alcatraz in San Francisco Bay was discovered by the Spanish

A

B

in 1769 and named by its large pelican colony.

C

D



through a cable connected with the set.

C

D

10. Henry David Thoreau stressed the importance in individuality and of living in

A

B

in harmony with nature.

C

D

11. The hormone insulin controls by the amount of sugar in the blood, which provides

A

B

C

D

energy for the body.

12. Frogs get much of their oxygen by means blood capillaries in the surface of the

A

B

C

of the skin.

D