

6

Prepositions



WHAT ARE PREPOSITIONS?

It is a term signifying the link between two objects indicating their position. For example: The pen is on the table. Here, on shows the relationship between the pen and the table. It is a word that indicates direction (to in “a letter to you”), location (at in “at her house”), or time (by in “by midnight”), or that introduces an object (of in “a basket of mangoes”). Prepositions are usually followed by an object, which can be a noun (midnight) or a pronoun (you).

The most commonly used prepositions have been penned down here as follows: about, above, across, after, against, along, among, around, at, because of, before, behind, below, beneath, beside, between, by, close to, down, during, except, for, from, inside, in, instead of, into, like, near, of, off, on, on top of, onto, out of, outside, over, past, since, through, to, towards, under, until, up, upon, with, within, without.

Types of preposition

The different types of prepositions are as follows:

Prepositions of direction: In order to refer to a direction, the prepositions used are “to,” “in,” “into,” “on,” and “onto.”

- She rode to the school.
 - Don't knock during an ongoing lecture.
- Come right in(to) the classroom.

Prepositions of time: In order to refer to one point in time, the prepositions used are “in,” “at,” and “on.”

- He was born in 1999.
- I go to gym at 6:00.
- We get off on second Saturdays of each month.

In order to refer to extended time, the prepositions used are “since,” “for,” “by,” “during,” “from...to,” “from...until,” “with,” and “within.”

- I have lived in Singapore since 2010.

- He will be in Bahrain for 2 weeks.
- He will finish his work by 8:00.
- She works part time during the autumn.
- I will take care of the car from July to December.
- They are in school from January until June.
- She will graduate within 3 years.
- Prepositions of place: The prepositions used to refer to a place are as follows: “in,” “at,” “on,” and “inside”.
- They will meet in the lunchroom.
- Lia was waiting at the corner.
- She left her wallet on the bed.
- Keep the pen inside the pouch.

In order to refer to an object higher than a point, the prepositions used are “over” and “above.” In order to refer to an object lower than a point, the prepositions used are “below,” “beneath,” “under,” and “underneath.”

- There is hard wood beneath the carpet.
- The bird flew over the house.
- He hid under the table.
- The mouse is hiding underneath the bed.

In order to refer to an object close to a point, the prepositions used are “by,” “near,” “next to,” “between,” “among,” and “opposite.”

- The post office is by the grocery store.
- My house is near the post office.
- Park your car next to the garage.
- The garage is opposite the house.

Prepositions of location: In order to refer to a location, the prepositions used are “in,” “at,” and “on.”

- He will find her at the library.
- They live in the country.
- He sat on the chair.

Prepositions of spatial relationships: To refer to a spatial relationship, use the prepositions “above,” “across,” “against,” “ahead of,” “along,” “among,” “around,” “behind,” “below,” “beneath,” “beside,” “between,” “from,” “in front



of,” “inside,” “near,” “off,” “out of,” “through,” “toward,” “under,” and “within.”

- His house is across the street from the grocery store.
- We will stop at many attractions along the way.
- The children are hiding behind the tree.
- Take your shoes off.
- Walk toward the library and then turn right.
- Place a check mark within the box.

SOME RULES WHILE USING PREPOSITIONS

1. A preposition must have an object.
2. A preposition is followed by a “noun”. It is never followed by a verb.
3. A preposition (usually) comes before its object. For example: I put it in the bag. However, at times when the preposition does not come before its object, it is still closely related to its object: Who did you talk to? / I talked to Lia.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Fill in the blanks with correct prepositions.

1. We took the decision ____ the telephone.
2. I met Lia ____ December.
3. We were paralysed ____ fear.
4. Jacob left ____ Singapore.
5. She turned ____ and looked at me.
6. The boy ____ the blue shirt is my brother.
7. The cat sprang ____ the table.
8. I shall return ____ an hour.
9. He will join school ____ tomorrow.
10. She went back home ____ lunchtime.
11. Do you take pride ____ your appearance?
12. I tripped ____ the box and fell down the stairs.
13. I am looking forward ____ seeing you at the party.
14. He trembled ____ fear when he got caught.
15. I think the shop should be open ____ now.
16. People used to waste a lot of time ____ queuing up to pay bills.
17. Our shop remains closed ____ Sundays.
18. We visited Manali ____ the summer vacations.
19. She is proud ____ her achievements.
20. I am no good ____ singing.
21. My sister works ____ the bank.
22. He hung a calendar ____ the fireplace.
23. Children ____ the age of three are not allowed here.
24. There is a shop ____ the house.
25. He is leaning ____ the wall.
26. Come to my office ____ half-past ten.
27. He is available ____ 10 am and 12 noon.
28. The old lady is walking ____ a stick.
29. We pay our bills ____ cash.
30. The house is ____ fire.
31. The peaches are sold ____ 150 rupees a kilo.
32. The spoon is made ____ gold.
33. You are eligible ____ the post.
34. I was shocked ____ her behaviour.
35. I am short ____ money.
36. I have a good relationship ____ my classmates.
37. Concentrate ____ your work.
38. She is ill ____ fever.
39. The situation is ____ control.
40. She congratulated me ____ winning the game.
41. It rained ____ days together.
42. They were freed ____ the danger.
43. The meeting starts ____ three o'clock.
44. He warned me ____ the danger.
45. Be kind ____ your peers.
46. She invited me ____ her house.
47. They went ____ a picnic.
48. Ram lost ____ Lia in the finals.
49. James died ____ overeating.
50. There is some dispute ____ the property.



SOLUTIONS

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Over | 26. At |
| 2. In | 27. Between |
| 3. With | 28. With |
| 4. For | 29. In |
| 5. Around | 30. On |
| 6. In | 31. At |
| 7. Upon | 32. Of |
| 8. Within | 33. For |
| 9. From | 34. By |
| 10. At | 35. Of |
| 11. In | 36. With |
| 12. Over | 37. On |
| 13. To | 38. With |
| 14. With | 39. Under |
| 15. By | 40. On |
| 16. In | 41. For |
| 17. On | 42. From |
| 18. During | 43. At |
| 19. Of | 44. Of |
| 20. At | 45. To |
| 21. At | 46. To |
| 22. Over | 47. On |
| 23. Under | 48. To |
| 24. Across | 49. Of |
| 25. Against | 50. Over |

