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BSc Degree

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English - I (Basic English)
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Parts of Speech (Prepositions)

Welcome to the class. In this class of English today, we are going to be talking about prepositions. It is one of the Parts of a Speech. In continuation with the discussion on parts of speech, we talk about this category in particular today. This is one such category of words in English, which can be called a word of closed class.

It simply means, that there is a limited number of prepositions in any language. In English, we have a limited number of properties. These are also called function words. So, when the word has its grammatical function, they are known as function words. One can always ask all words in a sentence can have grammatical function. Knowing that well, we are talking in particular about only closed class of words.

If you hear something about closed class of words, you also know there is going to be open class of words. So, what is the difference between the two? The difference is pretty simple. Difference is we can have nouns as open class, but we have pronouns as closed class, meaning, we can have millions of nouns because nouns are naming words in any language and also in English.

But pronouns are a category of closed class because we have only a limited set of pronouns for all those nouns. Similarly, prepositions are a closed class words. Having talked about this, we talk a few more things about prepositions to introduce this term and then we look at the function and its uses in English.

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Prepositions



- Words that help us show relationships in time, place and position.
- Examples are words like in, on, at, by, from, with, before, after, for, etc.
- I will see you at the office on Monday.
- He stood before me in the queue.
- at (preposition of place) *i2*
- on (preposition of time)
- before (preposition of position)

pre-position
post-position
on Monday PP
P +



Something else that we need to know about preposition is what is it that is what is it that prepositions do in the language? So, to answer that question, we can say words that help us so, the lessons in time, place and position. So, the demonstrating relationship in terms of time, place, and position and few more things with respect to the noun that they precede is the functional of preposition.

You can see the examples of words like in, on, at, by, from, with, before, after, for and a lot more. All these are examples of prepositions in English. I will see you at the office on Monday, you see the underlined parts, these are prepositions. He stood before me in the queue, 'before' is a preposition, and 'in' is also preposition.

So, in these two examples, for instance, you see, at, on, before and in, at is the preposition of place, on is the preposition of time, before is the preposition of position and in is again the preposition of place. So, 'in' can also be taken here. We are going to look at more details of these prepositions pretty soon.

Another important point that we need to mention about prepositions is the following. You would have already noticed it by now. You have been using prepositions a lot in your language and this will ring the bell right away. Meaning you will be able to see the point in a moment. Look at the name of this category of prepositions.

So, it is clearly talking about positions and then look at this prefix pre it tells you something, which simply means, prepositions are always going to receive the noun in English. So, look

at this at, before, on, in, any preposition you see, they can only proceed a noun. The preposition that you see they can only proceed nouns or we can say the same thing in different words, what follows a preposition can only be noun or a pronoun, we can say a pronoun because pronoun replaces a noun, we have talked about that you know that.

So, there is a close connection, there is an interdependency between preposition and noun. In the context of discussing of parts of a speech, you also can underline that we have many parts of a speech are interconnected with one another, they are interconnected in this specific way. So, here we are talking about the interconnection between a noun and a preposition.

And another footnote for us to remember, because, so, first of all, let us take the footnote, footnote is in English these elements are called prepositions. In our languages, that is languages that we grew up speaking, namely, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Hindi, Marathi, Bengali and so on. These words follow a noun, that is, this category of words follows a noun.

So, in that context, since these ones are called pre-positions, such words are called post-positions, there is no hyphen between these words, I am putting this hyphen for you to see, because they follow they are called post- positions, these words precede therefore, they are called prepositions. In other words, they have a position preceding a noun, these elements are they have a producing following a noun.

So, let us check on Monday. So, when we see on here, then we know the following word Monday is a noun. So, it can be a noun or a noun phrase, the office is a noun. Here we see that the preceding the entire sequence is a noun phrase and the preceding element is the preposition. This part ‘the’ is called an article or a determiner and, as another piece of footnote we need to know that determiners also can precede only a noun.

So, these if you pay attention to these things, you know, them also as diagnostic features, you know, if there is an article, the following element will be a noun, if there is a preposition, the following element will be a noun and therefore, a noun phrase. Look at everything ‘before me’ here you see a pronoun and you have a noun, you have a preposition following there.

‘In’ a preposition following sequence the queue is a noun phrase where ‘the’ is a determiner again. So, these are few things to know about prepositions apart from knowing ‘they’ are function and the reason why we need to know the function of a preposition is because ‘they’ are often used in sentences, in discourse and they are critical elements for understanding others and speaking good English.

Good uses of prepositions can make our speech better, can make our writing better. When we write, we write lot of things in a sentence, sentences are usually longer when we speak, sentences are usually longer. So, they keep becoming sentences become longer only on the basis of more and more prepositional phrases. So, like you see here on Monday, this Monday is a noun, and this is a preposition.

So, together, they become a prepositional phrase. So, these are the things that you will see later but this type of information. If it stays in the back of your mind that is going to be very helpful in learning and brushing up what you are up to. I add one more piece of footnote here. Please do check what we call post positions in our languages. Please make a sentence I am not recommending translation and learning through translation.

I am only suggesting you take these two sentences, say these two sentences to yourself or write them on a piece of paper in your language and check these elements like at, on, before, in, in your languages, find it out how they follow a noun. When you look at it, when you compare the two, you are learning of these elements in particular, and the whole language in general becomes much easier and faster.

There is a lot of connection between the new language that we are going to learn and the language that we speak that we grew up with speaking without consistent learning them. So, the connection between the two is going to be helpful. So, something that we do not even pay attention to in the process of learning can also be responsible for learning.

Therefore, we are asking you to do these things they will be very helpful. Now, we move to the functions of prepositions.

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PREPOSITIONS LIST

A Preposition is a word that shows the relationship between a noun or a pronoun and some other word or element in the rest of the sentence.

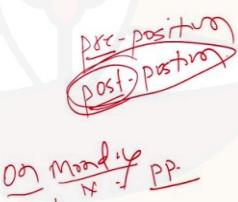
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• Amongst	• Between	• In spite of	• Next to	• Over	• With
• Apart	• Beyond	• In to	• Past	• Owing to	• With a view to
• Around	• But	• Inside	• Per	• Than	• Within
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Prepositions

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- Examples are words like in, on at, by, from, with, before, after, for, etc.
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- He stood before me in the queue.
- at (preposition of place) in
- on (preposition of time)
- before (preposition of position)



So, we talked about just three, four in two sentences, and we give you set of prepositions, which are most often used, here is a list of we have taken it from a particular source, which we acknowledge here, but this gives you a list of a lot of postpositions in one place.

They are all arranged in alphabetical order, they are all the words that make the whole class is a closed class. We do not claim that this is an exhaustive list and there is no more preposition in English. But this is quite an exhaustive list, please pay attention to that. And in particular, we are asking you to pay attention to what are seen here as compound postpositions or complex postpositions. Keep in mind, the function is exactly intact.

There is no change in the function. But things like, let us take some examples like around, about, above. These are simple words, prepositions, but according to here, you see something of the nature of verb here, ing is the element that we usually take for verbs. And then you have to, so this whole thing according to is one preposition it is called compound preposition, but they do exist, the function is exactly the same.

Again you see across, after, against, ago, ahead of, ahead is also a preposition and ahead of is also a preposition. Since the two also exist independently, and we get a new one made by combining the two therefore they are called compound postpositions. So, along, amidst, among, amongst, apart, around, as, as far as, as well as, aside, at, away, because of, look at this, so, by means of.

Look at this we have a preposition in then we have in accordance with, in addition to, in case of, in front of, in lieu of, in place of, in spite of, in to is usually written as into without a space, inside, instead of and so on. So, look at this. So, we have into, and we have to also as a prepositions, independent preposition.

So, we have with as a preposition, we have with a view to look at this here we have to as well and with both, here is within, where we have with an in together. So, we are not talking about creativity underlying prepositions, but some prepositions are compound in nature as well. All of them precede a noun, all of them have a specific function and they come in a closed class, meaning there are only a few of them, it is not millions of them or hundreds of them.

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Preposition of Time	Used For	Example
At	Specific / precise time	At 4.00 am / at noon
On	For days and dates	On Wednesday/ on 25 th June
In	For longer periods like months, years, seasons, etc.	In January/ in 2017/ in summer
For	Duration of time	For three days, for a year
Preposition of Place	Used For	Example
At	A specific place	At the library
On	Referring to an area or surface	On the terrace
In	A place with a boundary	In a room; in the sea
Preposition of Direction	Used For/Used To	Example
Towards/Into/Up	Expressing a direction	Towards the church
In/Around/Across		Across the street



So, now, look at some of them. The very we start with the basic ones, at, on, in, and for. So, at is used for a specific or precise time. So, if somebody gives you an appointment 4 am or noon or 4pm, we are picking up am here in particular because if somebody talks about 4 am, this must be a very specific thing. So, we need to use at with that, on for days and dates.

So, on Wednesday or on twenty fifth of June, we use in for longer periods, like months, years, season, etc like in January, in 2017 in the summer and so on. We also use this preposition in when we mean something is contained inside a bigger thing than we use in like in the box, in the house. We use these kinds of prepositions as well.

For, we use for duration of time, for three years, for eight year and so on. We use at again look at this, we can use it for a specific place also at the library on referring to the area of surface on the terrace and in place with a boundary in the room, in the sea. So, see this, this is what I was talking about.

So, when it has a boundary, it is contained within, we use them in and for a specific place again we use at and for a specific, the only is used referring to the area on the surface, so towards, into, expressing direction towards the church, across the street, and so on, we use them in that way.

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Preposition of Agent	Used for/ Used to	Example
by	Show how something has been done	Manufactured by machines
	Show how somebody commutes	Travels by bus
	Indicate the agent in passive voice	We were informed by the authorities
	Work written/done by people	Built by a carpenter



We use by in these contexts, this is one preposition we use it for showing how something has been done, manufactured by machine, look at this. Showing how somebody commutes travels by bus, indicating the agent in passive that is, we use a by preposition before what looks like

a subject in an active sentence, and we move it back to the passive sentence. So, we are informed by the authorities, so, work written, done by people, built by a carpenter we use by in these contexts.

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Here is a list of some commonly-used prepositions with meanings and examples.



	Preposition	Meaning	Examples
1.	about	a. On the of b. approximately	a. This movie is about three students in a college. b. Take about give grams of copper dioxide.
2.	across	From one side to the other	We walked across the road to the ice-cream parlour.
3.	against	a. Opposed to ✓ b. In contact with.	a. It is against the law to obstruct government officials while they are performing their duty. b. Place the refrigerator against the wall.
4.	after	a. Later in time b. Later in group c. Follow somebody or something	a. Please meet me after 5 o'clock. b. The dancers will come after singers in the procession. c. The policemen ran after the thieves.
5.	along	following ✓	Walk along the road till you see the bus-stop on the right.
6.	at	a. A specific location b. At a point of time c. An activity d. Towards somebody or something	a. Please deliver this parcel at 12, Trundle street. b. The instructor specifically told us to submit the assignment at 9.00 pm. c. The students are busy at work. d. The bull charged at the crowd.



Same way, we have a list of things or functions for you like about, across, against, after, at, so look at this. We use about on so look at this, this movie is about three students in a college approximately takes about give grams of copper dioxide. So, we are just using some examples to indicate how they are used across from one side to the other. We walked across the road to the ice cream parlor. So, it is in the sense of crossing.

We use against to oppose to and in contact with. It is against the law to abstract government officials while they are performing their duty, see the other uses. Place the refrigerator against the wall. So, in contact with an opposed to these are two uses. So, we are only giving you some examples of these things.

After is used in terms of later in time, later in group or follow somebody or something. So, like when you say meet me after 5 o'clock, so, that is about time, meet me after singer, the dancer will come after the singer in the processor, the policeman ran after thieves. So, it is in the sense of following.

So along, along is also used in the sense of following. Walk along the road till you see the bus stop on the right. So, this is the preposition that is used for that. So, we have at for a

specific location, at a point of time and activity towards somebody or something. So, in these contexts, also see the examples and use them.



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	Preposition	Meaning	Examples
13.	for	a. Duration of time b. Distance c. Purpose	a. We played football <u>for</u> two hours. b. You have to walk <u>for</u> two kilometers to reach the bank. c. These bananas are <u>for</u> the custard.
14.	from	a. Place of origin b. Source c. cause	a. We started <u>from</u> Varanasi yesterday. b. We heard about the accident <u>from</u> Rohan. c. She suffers <u>from</u> migraine. That's why she gets frequent headaches.
15.	in	a. Place b. Within a place c. A member of	a. London is <u>in</u> England. b. I left my bag <u>in</u> the room. c. He is <u>in</u> the army.
16.	inside	within	They are <u>inside</u> the room.
17.	into	To the inside of	We stepped <u>into</u> the hall.
18.	like	a. Resembling b. possibility	a. He looks <u>like</u> a movie actor. b. It appears <u>like</u> rain.
19.	near	a. Close to	a. The park is <u>near</u> the school.



	Preposition	Meaning	Examples
20.	of	a. Location b. Possession c. Part of group d. Measurement	a. Don't stand in the middle <u>of</u> the road. b. Rohan is a good friend <u>of</u> mine. c. Vikrant is a part <u>of</u> the music band. d. Take two cups <u>of</u> milk.
21.	off	a. Not on b. At some distance from	a. Please keep <u>off</u> the grass. b. The island is <u>off</u> the coast.
22.	onto	Reaching the position	The dog climbed <u>onto</u> the table.
23.	over	a. Above b. Across c. More than	a. There are shelves <u>over</u> the sink. b. He tried to jump <u>over</u> the wall. c. This phone is <u>over</u> two thousand rupees.
24.	Since	a. From a specific time in the past b. From a past time until now	a. I have been working on this assignment <u>since</u> 2 pm. b. I have been waiting for the courier <u>since</u> morning.
25.	through	a. For a period of time b. By means of	a. I slept <u>through</u> the night. b. He started drawing well <u>through</u> practice.
26.	to	a. In the direction of b. Destination c. purpose	a. Turn <u>to</u> your right. b. I am going <u>to</u> Varanasi. c. I went shopping <u>to</u> buy new clothes.



	Preposition	Meaning	Examples
27.	toward	a. In the direction of b. Just before the time	a. She started walking <u>towards</u> the temple. b. It started raining <u>towards</u> night.
28.	under	a. Beneath b. In the present condition	a. The books are <u>under</u> the table. b. My car is <u>under</u> repair.
29.	until	Upto a certain point of time	She will stay <u>until</u> 4 pm.
30.	up	a. To a higher place b. In a higher place	a. We walked <u>up</u> the stairs. b. The temple is <u>up</u> the hill.
31.	with	a. Accompanying b. By means of c. As a result of	a. I went to the part <u>with</u> my parents. b. He stuck the paper <u>with</u> glue. c. My mother was very happy <u>with</u> my performance.
32.	within	a. Inside of, in terms of distance b. Before the end of a time period	a. My college is <u>within</u> one kilometer from here. b. I will come back <u>within</u> an hour.



We have again described before, between, but, by, down, during and for, from, in, inside, into, like and near. So, we are giving you an exists just a list of roughly 22 prepositions with the context. We are doing this with an idea that these are the 32 prepositions which are most commonly and by all means, it most frequently used prepositions by people when they speak and write.

So, the claim is not that these prepositions cannot be used in more context, the only when we write in the second column meaning, we are only giving you some approximate idea. So, main point that we want to put forth here are certain things that we described in the beginning. Now, the things that we are giving you with an approximate meaning and a list of 22 propositions, but, as third part of this understanding of this elaboration.

I want to give you a couple of specific suggestions for which will be helpful and if you practice them, it will the list of this closed class of words will become quite apparent to you, which is, the first one I have mentioned before I am going to repeat it. Please do make a sentence of your own with these prepositions that we are discussing with you. So, we have given you 32 with several meanings.

So, if we are giving you approximately 50 meaning or 60 meanings of these prepositions, then we what will really help is your make 60 sentences of your own and taking them in your notebook. That's one. One can I can repeat it multiple times. But that would not change the meaning. We do recommend that you write them with a pen on a notebook. Please do not type them on a machine.

Take your time, sit down, stay relaxed, and write your sentences with you with a pen and paper with a pen on the paper. See, we are using prepositions in that as well with a pen on the paper. Remember that how you need to do exercises of this, with a pen on the paper. Second, you should be writing an equal number of sentences, either the same sentence in your language or a new sentence in your language.

That will be helpful. That will make you see that you are looking at postpositions in your language and you are getting a sense of, you are paying attention to how these elements are used in your language. You do not need to do more than that. Rest will happen in your subconscious and the impact of these things will show up, when you use them either in your writing or in your speaking, that is what we want to recommend you for this.

So, we took some time to talk only about one specific part of speech for today. And we only needed to tell you we only needed to make five, six points with this special type of parts of a speech for you. And we will come back with more and newer things shortly. Thank you.

