

Prepositions

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Definition

- "Preposition is a word that shows the relationship between two objects, things, persons, or conditions" E.g. *The book is **on** the table* shows relation between the book and the table.
- Prepositions often tell us where one noun is in relation to another. In other words "a preposition consists of a word or a group of words that demonstrates the relationship between a noun or a pronoun with another word in the sentence"
- "A preposition adds extra information to a sentence such as direction, time, place, movement, manner, agent, measure, source, and procession"

Types of Prepositions

- Prepositions of time
- Prepositions of place
- Prepositions of movement
- Prepositions of manner
- Prepositions of agent of instrument
- Preposition of measure
- Preposition of source
- Preposition of procession

Time

- Indicates whether something happens, happened or will happen
- Prepositions – ***at, on, in during, before, after***
- **She was born *on* 23rd August 1934.**
- **She never arrives *on* time.**
- **He was born *at* 4 am.**
- **She came *after* the event was over.**
- **He was born *in* 2001.**
- **She arrived just *before* the meals finished.**

Rules

1. Use **in** when referring to – years, months, seasons, centuries, time of day
– It is always the hottest **in** May. I came **in** the afternoon.
2. Use **on** when – days, dates, specific holidays – We go to the temple **on** Tuesdays
3. Use **at** when – referring to time – see you **at** 4am. I work best **at** night.

Place

- Preposition that indicates position/placement of something
- These prepositions also indicate time – **on, in, at**
- The cup is **on** the kitchen table
- We like the cups seen **at** the supermarket
- Others – **under, over, behind, near, outside, inside, between**
- The car went **under** the bridge
- The girl hid **behind** the cupboard
- Rules
- 1. When indicating something with the surface – use **on** – The clock hangs **on** the wall,
- 2. When indicating something that is lying inside or in within something enclosed – use **in** – The girls are **in** the shopping mall.
- 3. When indicating a specific point/place – We will meet her **at** the restaurant.

Movement

- Most common – **to**
- This indicates direction in which something or someone moves
- E.g. David went **to** the beach
- Other prepositions that add value to movement – **across, through, into, over, down, up, past, around.**
- Rule -1: indicating movement from one side to another – **across** – *He swam **across** the river*
- Rule-2: Indicating movement from inside to outside or vice-versa- **through.** *She drove **through** the tunnel.*
- Rule-3: Indicating movement that enters or looks inside - **into** – *She swam **into** the cave to rescue the dog.*
- Rule-4: Indicating specific direction of movement – **over, down, up, past, around** – *The thief ran **down** the road. She climbed **up** the tree.*

Manner

- Way things happen or the way or method by which things happen – ***by, in, like with, on***
- Children go to school ***by*** bus
- She went to the shopping mall ***in*** a taxi
- They travelled ***on*** foot due to the rough terrain
- The young girl sang ***like*** a professional

Agent

- Action by someone using something or action on something
- ***By, with***
- The movie was written ***by*** me.
- She could only move about ***with*** the help of clutches
- The house was constructed ***by*** my parents

Measure

Indicates quantity of something

By, of

We bough two kgs ***of*** tomatoes

One-third ***of*** the world is poor

Source

Indication origination from something or someone

From, by

I received money ***from*** my father.

This note was written ***by*** my wife

Possession

Indicating that something or someone is owned by
something or someone

Of, with, to

This property is ***of*** my late father

The antique clock belongs ***to*** my mother