



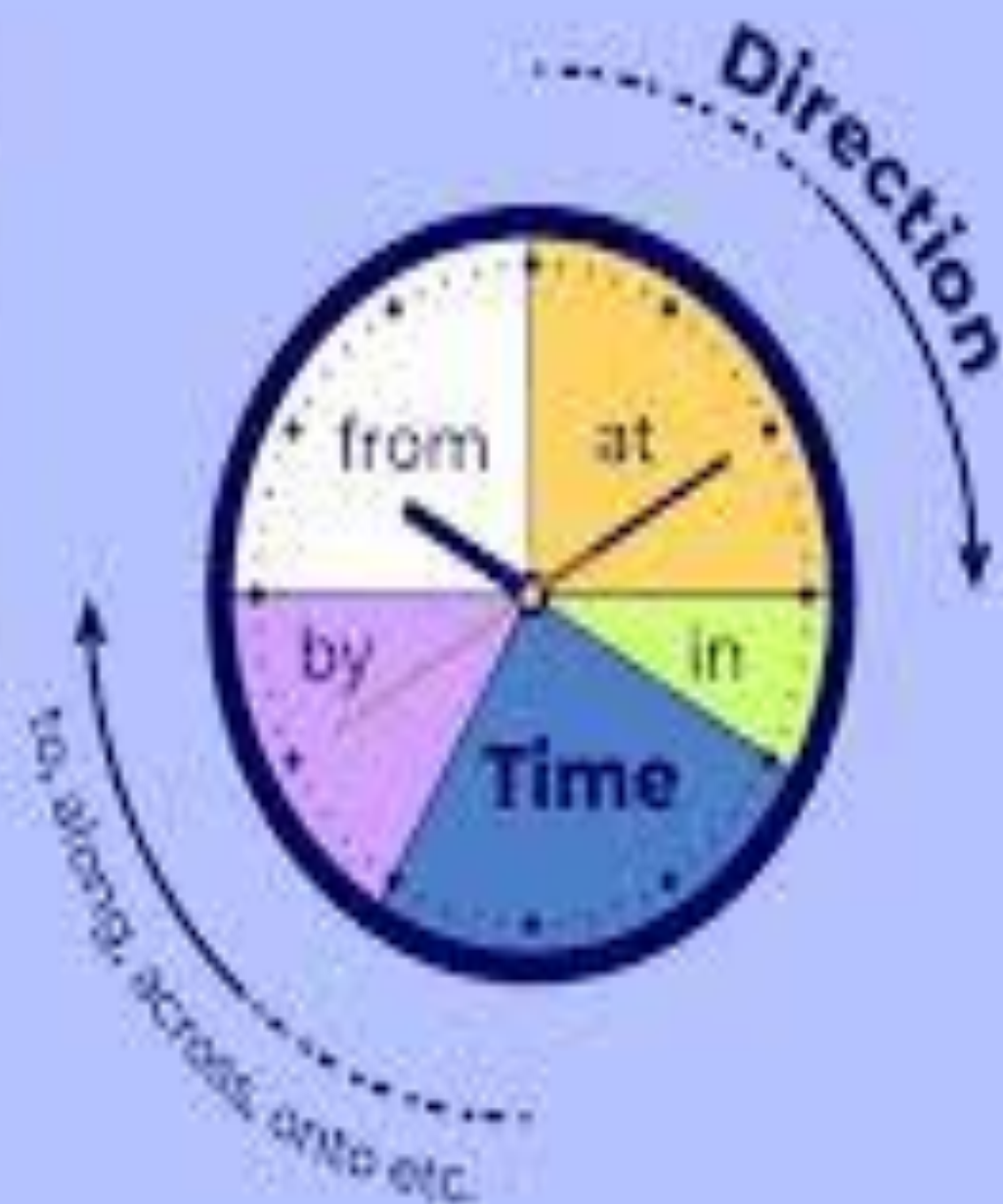
# English Language

(1<sup>st</sup> Year )

**Dr. Nourhan Habib**

Media Production Lecturer  
Faculty of Mass Communication – Ain Shams University

# Preposition



## DEFINITION OF PREPOSITIONS



Prepositions are short words that link nouns a pronouns to other words.

They can express **position/place** (e.g. under the table) and **time** (e.g. on Monday) as well as many other things (e.g. by train).

# • The most common examples of prepositions include;

. In – On – At

The same word can be used as a preposition in multiple ways.

. e.g. 'I'm meeting Mickey Mouse **at** the weekend'      TIME

. I'm meeting him **at** Disneyland.      PLACE



## Positioning of prepositions

- The word 'preposition' has two parts: '**pre**' and '**position**'. This is a useful reminder; the position of the preposition is usually before ('pre') a noun phrase or pronoun.

For example:

- **'The cat is stuck in the tree'**
- the preposition 'in' comes before the noun 'tree'.
- **'She is talented at playing the piano'**
- Here, the preposition 'at' connects the adjective 'talented' to the verb 'playing'. If we didn't have the preposition then the sentence wouldn't make sense.

# Types of Prepositions

1. Prepositions of place
2. Prepositions of time
3. Prepositions of movement/direction

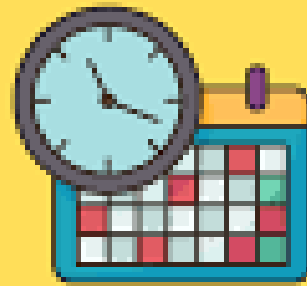


# 1. Prepositions of Place ( In – On –At )



## 2. Prepositions of Time ( In – On –At )

# **Prepositions of Time**





### 3. Prepositions of Movement/Direction

prepositions of place express the static position of something,  
prepositions of movement/direction show active movement.

#### Prepositions of Direction



Preposition	Example
To	(Motion in direction of a particular location) <i>'I'm going to bed', 'she's moving to France'</i>
Towards	(In the direction of) <i>'I ran towards the cute puppy', 'she turned towards the window'</i>
Into	(Inside somewhere or something/ hitting something) <i>'he climbed into the deep, dark pit', 'the bird flew into the window'</i>
Across/along/behind	(Movement in relation to something else) <i>'the dog ran behind my bike', 'she reached across the table'</i>

# TIME

For describing TIME and PLACE,  
the prepositions IN, ON, and AT go from GENERAL to SPECIFIC.

# PLACE

**Centuries**.....The 1900's

**Decades**.....The 90's

**Years**.....1990, 2000

**Months**.....March, June

**Weeks**.....5 Weeks

**Seasons**.....Spring

**Periods of Time**.....The Future

**Holidays**.....The Easter Holiday

**Parts of the Day**.....The Morning

**Time**.....The Weekend

**Days**.....Monday

**Dates**.....April 3rd

**Specific Days**.....My Birthday

**Day + Part of Day**.....Sunday Morning

**Holidays with "Day"**.....Easter Day

**Hours**.....8 a.m/p.m

**Parts of the Day**.....Midnight

**Time**.....The Moment

**Holidays without "Day"**.....Easter

General

IN

(Bigger)

France.....**Countries**

Paris.....**Cities**

Manhattan.....**Neighborhood**

A Car.....**Enclosed Space**

More specific

ON

(Smaller)

Columbus Street.....**Streets**

Seventh Avenue.....**Avenues**

The Floor.....**Surfaces**

A Bus.....**Means of Transport**

The Radio.....**Communications**

Very specific

AT

(Smallest)

456 State Street.....**Addresses**

The Station.....**Specific Locations**

## EXAMPLES

PLACE		
IN	ON	AT
Prison	The second floor	The top
London	Oxford Street	The station
A room	The ground	Someone's house

## EXAMPLES

TIME		
IN	ON	AT
The afternoon	Friday afternoon	The weekend
The evening	Monday evening	Night
The summer	Summer evening	Lunch time



## OTHER TYPES OF PREPOSITIONS

They can also be grouped based on how they look. This includes **complex prepositions**, such as single-word prepositions, two-word prepositions, and three-word prepositions.

# SINGLE-WORD PREPOSITIONS

- Examples of single-word prepositions include:

- |          |         |
|----------|---------|
| . during | with    |
| . From   | up      |
| . On     | towards |
| . Near   | at      |
| . To     | above   |



# TWO -WORD PREPOSITIONS

- Examples of two-word prepositions include:

- . ahead of
- . instead of
- . due to
- . according to
- . because of
- . near to
- . rather than
- . prior to

- Some of these two-word prepositions need both words to make sense. Take the preposition 'instead of'. The sentence 'I want pizza instead chicken nuggets' does not make sense; the word 'of' is required.
- Two-word prepositions are often longer words followed by a simple preposition such as 'of', 'to', 'than' etc.

# THREE -WORD PREPOSITIONS

- Examples of three -word prepositions include:

- |                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| • in front of     | by means of       |
| • in spite of     | in addition to    |
| • in exchange for | in <u>case</u> of |
| • on top of       | as well as        |

- Three-word prepositions often follow the structure Preposition + Noun/Adjective + Preposition. For example, the preposition 'in addition to' contains the prepositions 'in' and 'to', and the noun 'addition'.

THANK YOU