**Prepositions**

**about**

* What do you think about Mary?
* Let’s talk about something different.

**above**

* We are flying above the clouds.
* We live in the hills, 1,000 meters above sea-level.

**across**

* We drove across the desert.
* The dog ran across the road.

**after**

* We had lunch [1pm] after the meeting [11am].
* Let’s meet the day after tomorrow.

**against**

* Did you vote for or against the suggestion?
* He put his bicycle against the wall.

**along**

* We walked along the beach for two miles.
* There are trees along the road.

**alongside**

* Their boat came alongside our boat.

**among**

* Is there a doctor among us?
* There were secret police among the crowd.

**around**

* We walked around the town for an hour.
* They all sat around the camp fire.

**at**

* He is at school.
* Let’s start the meeting at 9 o’clock.

**before**

* She was before me in the queue.

**behind**

* We have a garden behind our house.

**beside**

* The river runs beside our house.

**besides**

* What shall we have besides coffee?

**between**

* Tara was sitting between Ram and Ati.
* Between you and me, I think she’s crazy.
* I can meet you between 1pm and 2pm.

**by**

* We came by car.
* Fireworks were invented by the Chinese.
* He was shot by a professional killer.
* It happened by accident.
* He lost the race by five seconds.
* The room is 10 metres by 6 metres.
* We must finish by Tuesday.
* We were sitting by the window.
* By my calculation he must be 73.

**A preposition shows a relationship between two words in a sentence; it is a connecting word.**

**DIRECTION**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **to** | **into** | **across** |
| **toward** | **down** |  |

**LOCATION**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **above** | **among** | **around** |
| **at** | **beside** | **between** |
| **by** | **in** | **on** |
| **over** | **through** | **under** |
| **toward** |  |  |

**TIME**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **after** | **before** | **during** |
| **until** | **since** |  |

**OTHER**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **against** | **but** | **for** |
| **from** | **of** | **to** |
| **with** |  |  |

**Certain words are used with certain prepositions:**

according TO

part FROM (a person)

engage IN

rely ON

agree TO (a plan)

part WITH (a thing)

exclude FROM

responsible FOR, OF

agree WITH (a person)

expect FROM (thing)

ahead OF

capable OF

deal WITH

opposite OF (qualities)

similar TO

comply WITH

depend ON

opposite TO (position)

consist OF

deprive OF

conform TO

different FROM

based ON

identical WITH, TO

because OF

imply THAT

Frequently Used Prepositions:

**TIME**

**AT is used when the time is known:**

• Ivan’s class is at 3:30 p.m.

• The sun rises at dawn.

**ON is used when the day or date is known:**

• Mary went to the mall on Friday.

• The party will be on July the 4th.

**IN is used when the time is within a 24-hour period:**

• I finished my paper in just one day.

• All my classes are in the afternoon.

**BY is used when an action will be completed by a certain time or date:**

• Tony will finish his work by 5:00 p.m.

• Martha will be done with school by May.

**LOCATION**

**AT is used to show a site or target:**

• Mark is at home.

• Look at Marissa’s artwork.

**ON is used when the object is on a surface or electronic medium:**

• The cat is resting on the chair.

• You can find good articles on the Internet.

**IN is used for enclosed spaces, geographic locations, and print mediums:**

• My shoes are in the closet.

• I live in El Paso, TX.

• Jamie’s article was printed in the newspaper.

**BY is used to show nearness to a landmark:**

• Wal-Mart is by Cielo Vista Mall.

**Frequently Misused Prepositions**

Prepositions may sometimes be confused because of slang and the general informality of talk. Here are some frequently misused prepositions.

**beside, besides.**

**Beside means next to, whereas besides means in addition.**

Example: The comb is beside the brush.

Besides planning the trip, she is also getting the tickets.

**between, among.**

**Generally, between is used when two items are involved; with three or more, among is preferred.**

Example: Between you and me, he is among friends.

**due to.**

**Due to should not be used as a preposition meaning because of.**

**Introduce objects of verbs**

**At – with verbs glance, laugh, look, rejoice, smile, and stare**

Example: She took a quick glance at her reflection. (exception with mirror: She took a quick glance in the mirror.)

You didn't laugh at his joke.

I'm looking at the computer monitor.

**Of – with verbs approve, consist, and smell**

Example: I don't approve of his speech.

My contribution to the article consists of many pages.

**Of/About –with verbs dream and think**

Example: I dream of finishing college in four years.

Can you think of a number between one and ten?

**For – with verbs call, hope, look, wait, watch, and wish**

Example: Did someone call for a taxi?

He hopes for a raise in salary next year.

I'm looking for my keys.

**Place**

**In – describes the point itself.**

Example: There is a wasp **in** the room.

**Inside – expresses something contained.**

Example: Put the present **inside** the box.

**On – talks about the surface.**

Example: I left your keys **on** the table.

**At – talks about a general vicinity.**

Example: She was waiting **at** the corner.

**Over, above – when the object is higher than a point.**

Example: He threw the ball over the roof.

**Under, underneath, beneath, below – when the object is lower than a point.**

Example: We relaxed in the shade beneath the branches.

**Near, by, next to, between, among, opposite – when the object is close to a point.**

Example: She lives near the school.

**Time**

**On is used with days.**

Example: I will see you on Monday.

The week begins on Sunday. At is used with noon, night, midnight, and with the time of day.

My plane leaves at noon.

**In is used with other parts of the day, with months, with years, with seasons.**

Example: He likes to read in the afternoon.

The days are long in August.

The book was published in 1999.

The flowers will bloom in spring.

**Since, for, by, from—to, from—until, during, (with)in – expresses extended time.**

Example: She has been gone since yesterday. (She left yesterday and has not returned.)

I'm going to Paris for two weeks. (I will spend two weeks there.)

The movie showed from August to/until October. (Beginning in August, ending in October.)

I watch TV during the evening. (For some period of time in the evening.)

We must finish the project within a year. (No longer than a year.)

**Complex Prepositions**

**according to**

• According to John, Mary was late. I believe John.

**ahead of**

• We have a long day ahead of us. Let’s get going!

**along with**

• Do you want some pork along with the chicken?

**apart from**

• Nobody objected apart from you, so we did it.

**as for**

• As for Matt, he will arrive later.

**away from**

• The cat ran away from the dog and escaped.

**because of**

• We can’t play tennis because of the rain.

**by means of**

• You open a door by means of its handle.

**depending on**

• We’ll play tennis tomorrow, depending on the rain.

**due to**

• The cancellation was due to the rain. There was no other reason.

**except for**

• Everyone was present, except for Mary. She stayed at home.

**forward of**

• He was sitting forward of me in the plane. I could just see the back of his head.

**further to**

• Further to your letter, I have spoken to Mr. Brown.

**in addition to**

• There were two people in addition to me. So that made three of us.

**in between**

• He is in between the two opinions. He wants to compromise.

**in case of**

•You can phone me in case of need. Day or night.

**in spite of**

• We went swimming in spite of the cold water.

**instead of**

• We don’t have any tea. Would you like coffee instead of tea?

**in view of**

• In view of your illness, we will wait for a week.

**near to**

• There is a restaurant near to my office. Just two minutes away.

**next to**

• The school is next to the bank.

**on account of**

• Don’t worry on account of me. Think about yourself.

**on behalf of**

• I’m calling you on behalf of Mr. Brown. I represent him in legal matters.

**on top of**

• The cat is sitting on top of the television.

**opposite to**

• There is a tree opposite to the house. Straight across the road.

**out of**

• Take your hands out of your pockets and help me!

**outside of**

• They stopped outside of the city to check the map before entering.

**regardless of**

• I don’t want it, regardless of the price. Even if it’s free, I just don’t want it.

**thanks to**

• Thanks to Shirley, we arrived on time.

**together with**

• I’d like chicken please, together with vegetables.

**with regard to**

• I’d like to speak to you with regard to your work.