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| Preposition | How It’s Used | Example |
| **Showing Time** |  |  |
| At | exact times meal times parts of the day  age | ***at*** 3pm  ***at*** dinner ***at*** sundown ***at*** age 21 |
| By | a limit in time  in the sense of *at the latest* | ***by*** sundown  ***by*** the due date |
| In | seasons months years durations  after a certain period of time | ***in*** the summer ***in*** November ***in*** 1992  ***in*** the same year  ***in*** an hour |
| On | days of the week  parts of the day where the day is named  dates | ***on*** Wednesday  ***on*** Friday night  ***on*** December 4th |
| Ago | a certain time in the past | 2 years ***ago*** |
| After | a point in time that follows another point in time | ***after*** the game; ***after*** the surgery |
| Before | a point in time that precedes another point in time | ***before*** leaving; ***before***  breakfast; ***before*** 2004 |
| During | something that happened/will happen in a specific period of time | ***during*** the night; ***during***  war |
| For | over a certain period in the | ***for*** 2 years |

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|  | past |  |
| Past | telling the time | ten ***past*** six (6:10) |
| Since | from a certain period of time | ***since*** 1980; ***since*** the accident |
| Throughout | something that happened/will happen continuously in a specific period of time | ***throughout*** the year;  ***throughout*** the ordeal |
| To | telling time  from an earlier time to a later time | ten ***to*** six (5:50) 1pm ***to*** 3pm |
| Until | up to a certain point in time  how long something is going to last | ***until*** the end; ***until*** sunrise |
| Up (to) | from an earlier point to a later point | ***up (to)*** now |
| **Showing Place** |  |  |
| At | an object’s settled position or position after it has moved  meeting place or location point of direction  a target | ***at*** the airport; ***at*** the ceremony  ***at*** home; ***at*** the desk turning ***at*** the intersection throwing the snowball ***at***  Lucy |
| By | close to  alongside of | ***by*** the school  ***by*** the window |
| In | in an enclosed space  in a geographic location in a print medium | ***in*** the garage; ***in*** an envelope  ***in*** San Diego; ***in*** Texas  ***in*** a book; ***in*** a magazine |

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| On | for a certain side for a river/lake  for a floor in a house for public transport  for television, radio | ***on*** the left  London lies ***on*** the Thames  ***on*** the floor  ***on*** a bus  ***on*** the air; ***on*** TV |
| About | around or outside of at but not exactly on  related to | ***about*** town  ***about*** five feet tall  ***about*** my father’s business |
| Above | suspended higher than something else  superior to | ***above*** the door  ***above*** me in rank |
| After | pursuit  a point further from an earlier point | chasing ***after*** the robbers  the corner ***after*** the big house |
| Against | leaning on  opposite to or facing | ***against*** the door  ***against*** the wall |
| Along | tracing the length of, without emphasis on the ends | ***along*** the hallway; ***along***  the river |
| Among | in the company of (three or more)  in a crowd  the end of a long list | ***among*** friends ***among*** the masses ***among*** other things |
| Around | location of something  explaining a period of time | drive ***around*** the block  ***around*** 3 o’clock |
| Before | in the front in terms of space | ***before*** the emperor; ***before***  God |

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| Behind | on the back side of a point in space | ***behind*** the car; ***behind*** her smile |
| Below | something lower than or underneath something else | ***below*** the stairs; ***below***  expectations |
| From | in the sense of *where from* | a ***flower*** from the garden |
| Into | enter a room/building | go ***into*** the kitchen/house |
| Onto | movement to the top of something | jump ***onto*** the table |
| Over | covered by something else “more than”  “getting to the other side”  overcoming an obstacle | put a jacket ***over*** your shirt  ***over*** 16 years of age walk ***over*** the bridge climb ***over*** the wall |
| Through | something with limits on top, bottom and the sides | drive ***through*** the tunnel |
| Towards | movement in the direction of something (but not directly to it) | go 5 steps ***towards*** the house |
| **Other Important Prepositions** |  |  |
| About | for topics, meaning *what about* | we were talking ***about*** you |
| At | For *age* | she learned Russian ***at*** 45 |
| By | who made it  rise or fall of something  travelling (other than walking or horseriding) | a book ***by*** Mark Twain  prices have risen ***by*** 10 percent  ***by*** car, ***by*** bus |
| From | who gave it | a present ***from*** Jane |
| In | entering a car/taxi | get ***in*** the car |
| Of | who/what did it belong to | a page ***of*** the book |

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|  | what does it show | the picture ***of*** a place |
| Off | leaving a public transport vehicle | get ***off*** the train |
| On | walking or riding on horseback  entering a public transport vehicle | ***on*** foot, ***on*** horseback get ***on*** the bus |
| Out of | leaving a car/taxi | get ***out*** of the taxi |