PREPOSITIONS

A **preposition** is a word that shows the relationship between two things. In the example above, the prepositions show the relationships between a plane and a cloud. Below is a list of most common prepositions:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| about | beside | inside | to |
| above | besides | like | toward |
| across | between | near | under |
| after | beyond | of | underneath |
| against | by | off | until |
| along | despite | on | up |
| among | down | out | with |
| around | during | outside | within |
| at | except | over | without |
| before | for | past |  |
| behind | from | since |  |
| below | in | through |  |
| beneath | into | throughout |  |

Some prepositions consist of more than one word. Here is a list of the most common multiword prepositions:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| along with | in place of |
| because of | in spite of |
| Due to | instead of |
| except for | on account of |
| in addition to | out of |
| in case of | up to |
| in front of | with the exception of |

# Time

## Prepositions for Time, Place, and Introducing Objects

is used withdays.



**On**

I will see you **on** Monday. The week begins **on**Sunday.

is used with noon, night, midnight, and with the time of day.



**At**

My plane leaves **at** noon. The movie starts **at** 6 p.m.

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



**In**

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.

 – expresses extendedtime.

**Since, for, by, from—to, from—until, during,(with)in**

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.)

# Place

– describes the point itself.



**In**

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

–

**Inside**

Put the present **inside** the box.

– Talks about the surface.



**On**

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

– Talks about a general vicinity.



**At**

She was waiting **at** the corner.

–

**Over, above**

He threw the ball **over** the roof. Hang that picture **above** the couch.



* when the object is lower than apoint.

**Under, underneath, beneath, below**

The rabbit burrowed **under** the ground. The child hid **underneath** the blanket.

We relaxed in the shade **beneath** the branches. The valley is **below** sea-level.



* When the object is close to a point.

**Near, by, next to, between, among,opposite**

She lives **near** the school.

There is an ice cream shop **by** the store. An oak tree grows **next to** my house

The house is **between** Elm Street and MapleStreet. I found my pen lying **among** thebooks.

The bathroom is **opposite** thekitchen.

# Introduce objects of verbs

–

**At**

with verbs glance, laugh, look, rejoice, smile, and stare

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. We **rejoiced at** his safe rescue.

That pretty girl **smiled at** you. Stop **staring at** me.

–

**Of**

with verbs approve, consist, and smell

I don't **approve of** his speech.

My contribution to the article **consists of** many pages. He came home **smelling of** alcohol.

 –with verbs dream and think

**Of/About**

I **dream of** finishing college in four years.

Can you **think of** a number between one and ten? I am **thinking about** this problem.

–

**For**

with verbs call, hope, look, wait, watch, and wish

Did someone **call for** a taxi?

He **hopes for** a raise in salary next year. I'm **looking for** my keys.

We'll **wait for** her here

You go buy the tickets, and I'll **watch for** the train.

If you **wish for**an "A" in this class, you must work hard.

#### 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 inaddition.

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 ispreferred.

Between you and me, he is among friends.

***dueto***. *Dueto*shouldnotbe usedasaprepositionmeaning*becauseof*.

Because of (not due to) his speeding, we were all ticketed.

***inside of.*** The *of* is alwaysunnecessary*.*

Stay inside the house.

The man stayed outside (not outside of) the post office.