

3 Prepositions

A **Preposition** is a word placed before a Noun or Noun - equivalent to show in what position the person or thing denoted thereby stands to something else. The Noun or Noun-equivalent is called the Object of the Preposition.

e.g.

There is a book on the table.

He died in the morning.

Prepositions can be studied by dividing them into two parts:

- i. Theoretical Part
- ii. Applied Part

3.1 Theoretical Part (Some prepositions distinguished)

Some prepositions can be studied in pairs as follows:

3.1.1 At, In:

'At' is used with places usually small towns and villages. It is also used before a definite point of time and definite part of space.

'In' is used with countries and large towns and before a period of time.

e.g.

He lives at Koteshwor.

She always gets up at 6 am.

I saw a dead rat at the end of the passage.

He lives in Biratnagar.

She will come in two days.

2. 'At' is used before the parts of day such as morning, afternoon, evening, night if they are not preceded by definite article 'the'.

'In' is used before the same parts of day if 'the' is used before them.

e.g.

He came to meet me at morning.

He came to meet me in the morning.

16.3.1.2 In, Into:

'In' denotes rest position inside something. 'Into' denotes motion towards inside from outside.

e.g.

There are two books in my bag and I put one more into it.

16.3.1.3 By, With:

'By' is used to indicate the doer or agent of an action. 'With' indicates the material instrument or tool used in the action.

e.g.

The table was broken by John.

He is writing with a black marker.

16.3.1.4 In, After:

'In' is used with a period of future time. 'After' is used with a period of past time.

e.g.

He will reach there in two days.

She came back after two days.

16.3.1.5 In, Within:

'In' means at the end of a future period. 'Within' means before the end of a future period.

e.g.

I shall be here in (= at the end of) two hours.

I shall be there within (= before the end of) two hours.

16.3.1.6 On, Upon:

'On' is used in speaking of things at rest. 'Upon' is used in speaking of things in motion.

e.g.

There are two books on the table.

The tiger came upon the hunter.

The tiger sprang upon the hunter.

16.3.1.7 Before, Within:

'Before' denotes point of time. 'Within' denotes period of time.

e.g.

The project will be over before next Monday.

He will return from there within two months.

16.3.1.8 At, About:

'At' denotes a fixed moment. 'About' suggests proximity to a certain time.

e.g.

She left her office at 5 pm.

It is about 8 o'clock.

16.3.1.9 Between, Among:

'Between' is used for two persons, places or things. 'Among' is used for more than two persons, places or things.

e.g.

Divide this cake between these two children.

Divide this cake among these four children.

16.3.1.10 Beside, Besides:

'Beside' means 'at the side of'. 'Besides' means 'in addition to'.

e.g.

Come and sit beside me.

He bought a book besides a diary.

16.3.1.11 Since, For:

Since + point of time

For + period of time

'Since' is used only in Perfect Tense, but 'For' is used in all other tenses except the Present Continuous Tense.

e.g.

He has been working since 5 am.

He worked in the field for two hours

16.3.1.12 From, By:

'From' denotes a point of time. It is used with all the tenses. It is followed by to, till, or until either expressed or understood.

'By' refers to a point of future time and denotes some before that time.

e.g.

He started his job from the age of 25.

He worked from morning to evening.

She will reach Nepalgunj by 5 pm.