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Chapter Seventeen

Preposition

Preposition is a word such as *after, in, to, on, and with*. Prepositions are usually used in front of nouns or pronouns and they show the **relationship** between the noun or pronoun and other words in a sentence. They are fasteners that keep the words connected. Prepositions are categorized based on their use in a sentence as under.

Place	• Under the bed	• from home
	• between you and I	• on the table
	• in front of the TV	• at work (exception)
Time	on Sunday, in the summer, at 5 o'clock, During night	
Movement	Into the box, over the city, towards the car, away from here	

1. '**At**' as Prepositions of place & time

As preposition of place **at** is used for-

- **exact addresses** with a house or building number
- **general locations**--places such as a school, office building, hotel
- **Specific locations** particular rooms, offices, etc.

Examples

- at 201 Atlanta tower, Marine drive, Mumbai
- at the left corner / at 201 Wall street / at Gujarat University

Do not use **at** for addresses without house or building numbers:

Do not use **at** for general locations that have **boundaries i.e cities, countries, regions, states etc.**

- **correct** : He lives at Hotel Tej in Mumbai.
- **wrong** : He live in Hotel Taj at Mumbai

preposition

At is also used for expressing-

- a point in a scale (at his best). / engagement in an activity etc. (at war).
- a value or rate (sell at £10 each).

As preposition of time '**at**' is used for precise times :

- at 8 pm, at night / at the weekend / at lunchtime
- at sunrise/sunset / noon / dusk / dawn / at night
- at the moment / at present / at same time

Exception- at night






2. On- as a preposition of place **on** is used for surfaces:

on the table	on the wall	on the ceiling
on the floor	on the window	on a bike

As preposition of time '**On**' is used for days and dates:

On Wednesday. / On Friday. / On the 10th of January

On, over & above- These three prepositions can sometimes be used as synonyms for each other.
<p>On is used when something <u>touches</u> the surface.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most people put butter <u>on</u> their toast. • Put your jacket <u>on</u> the table before you go outside. • I wear my grandmother's ring <u>on</u> my left ring finger. <p>Note: There are many exceptions to this rule.</p> <p>On the radio / television. / On the left / right.</p> <p>On & upon- Note that On is used for steady position. Upon is used for motion. For Example- He sat on the table./He jumped upon a table.</p>
<p>Over is used to describe something's position when it is above something else:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The bottle is in the cabinet over the sink in the kitchen. <p>To describe something's position when it covers a surface:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The white cloth had been spread over the corpse.

preposition				
<p>Above- When to use “above” instead of “over”?</p> <p>Over- in higher (but close or touching) position</p> <p>Above - In a higher position</p> <p>Example: There's a helicopter flying above/over the school.</p>				
below	under			
				
		on	over	above

- 3. In-** As preposition of the place shows meaning **"inside"** or **"within"** a place. The place can be a small, specific one or a general geographic area. If something is contained inside a box or a wide flat area, we use 'in':

Examples-

in the newspaper	in a house/garden	in the sky
In a bottle	in England	in my stomach

- Do not use **in** with **exact addresses** (addresses with the house or building numbers):
wrong: *He lives in the 201 India colony.
- “In” is used for country and big cities. e.g.- I live in London.
“at” is used for small locations. e.g. I live at Andheri in Mumbai.

In & into

In is used for a steady position. **Into** is used for motion

- I was in bed. / He jumped into the river.

Into- refers to the following types of movement: Movement from the outside to the inside of something that can be imagined as surrounding, enclosing, or around the object :

- He got into the car.

Movement causing something to hit something else: -

He swerved into the tree.

As preposition of time '**In**' is used for months, years, decades, centuries, and long periods of time:

- years: **in** 1992, **in** 2006 / months: **in** December, **in** June
- decades: **in** the sixties, **in** the 1790s
- centuries: **in** the 19th century
- seasons: **in** winter, **in** summer
- **in** the morning, **in** the afternoon, **in** the evening

In & within	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I shall come in an hour (means I shall come at the end of an hour) • I shall come within hour (means I shall come at any time before the end of an hour)
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Common preposition + noun combinations

- At the cinema; at the theater; at the party; at university
- By car / bike / bus / train / boat / plane / land / sea / air
- On the radio; on TV; on the phone
- In pen / pencil / ink
- In a suit / raincoat / shirt / skirt / hat etc

preposition

Some adjectives need a preposition before their object.

There doesn't seem to be a logical rule. We just need to learn them. Here are some of the most common ones:

- **famous for**- France is famous for its food.
- **proud of**- He is very proud of his new car.
- **interested in**- Julie is very interested in the sport.
- **pleased with**- John is very pleased with his new suit.
- **bad at**- They are very bad at mathematics.
- **good at**- Einstein was very good at physics.
- **married to**- My mother has been married to my father for 20 years.
- **excited about**- I'm very excited about my holiday.
- **different from/to**- Coffee is different from tea.
- **afraid of**- I'm afraid of spiders.
- **worried about**- I am worried about my new job.

After some verbs :

Some verbs need specific preposition. Here are some of the most common ones:

- **arrive at/in somewhere**- We arrived at the airport.
- **belong to somebody**- This book belongs to me.
- **borrow something**- I borrowed a book from my classmate.
- **concentrate on something**- I concentrated on studying at the weekend.
- **depend on something/somebody**- It depends on the weather.
- **explain something**- The teacher explained the exercise to the students.
- **listen to something**- I listened to music.
- **waiting for someone**- She is waiting for her friend.

preposition	
One word prepositions	
aboard	<p>on or into (a ship, aircraft, etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Container shifted aboard the ship
about	<p>On the subject of (a book about birds). In relation to (symmetry about a plane).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do you think about political situation prevalent at present?
across	<p>describes the movement from one end of something to the other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He walked across the road. <p>Something's position when it stretches over the surface it is on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was a barricade across the road. <p>To describe something's position when it is at the opposite end from one's position:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We went to the restaurant across the road. [Note- come across = meet or find by chance]
after	<p>following in time, place, or order:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Let's go for a walk after breakfast. • Some people believe in life after death.
against	<p>disagreeing with a plan or activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She spoke against the decision to close the college. • 50 people voted against the new proposal.
along	<p>Along' is used to describe movement in a line.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We walked along the river. <p>The collective position of a group of things that are in a line.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He lived one of the houses along the river.
alongside	<p>next to, or together with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The new pill will be used alongside existing medicines. • Most of the staff refused to work alongside the new team. • The USA fought alongside France during the war with ISI.

preposition	
amid amidst	in the middle of or surrounded by <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The town sits amid hills and dense forest.
chaos	Chaos- a state of total confusion with no order: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Snow and ice have caused chaos on the roads. Computer failure has created chaos in the passport office.
among & between [amongst (UK)]	When there is "two" person or thing, use "between" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Between you & your girl-friend, the matter is serious When there are more than two persons or thing, use "among" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Rajputs quarreled among themselves.
anti	opposed to or against a particular thing or person: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We received a lot of anti letters about that department. I will not participate but, it doesn't mean that I'm anti you.
around	In a position surrounding, or in a direction going along the edge (of) or from one part to another (of): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We sat around the table. She had a scarf around her neck. The moon goes around the earth.
as	Adverb -used in comparisons to refer to the degree of something: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> She'll soon be as tall as her mother. I can't run as fast as you. skin as soft as a baby's
	Preposition- used to describe the purpose or quality of someone or something: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> She works as a waitress. It may be used as evidence against him.
	Conjunction - because e.g. - You can go first, as you're the oldest.
	Conjunction- in the same way: He got divorced, (just) as his parents had done years before. This year, as in previous years, tickets sold very quickly.

Preposition	
astride	<p>With a leg on each side.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She sat proudly astride her new motorbike.
before	<p>It means- at a time earlier than (the thing mentioned)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (See me before you go). • You should always wash your hands before meals.
but	<p>It means nevertheless, however e.g.- I tried but failed.</p> <p>It means - on the other hand; on the contrary e.g. - I am old but you are young.</p> <p>It also means- Except e.g.- She's one of those guests who does nothing but complain</p>
behind	<p>It means- At the back (of)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look behind you! / I hung my coat behind the door. • Alex led, and I followed along behind.
beside	<p>It means 'at the side of' or 'next to'.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He wishes to take a photograph of us. Would you sit beside me? • There was a small table beside the bed.
besides	<p>It means 'in addition to' or 'also':</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What other types of music do you like besides classical?
beyond	outside or after (a stated limit):
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Few people live beyond the age of a hundred. • We can not allow you to work beyond normal office hours.
By	This preposition is used in many different ways as under.
<p>One common use is in showing places. The meaning of by is the same as beside or at the side of.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Were you sitting by (beside) the door? • The police station is by the Hanuman Temple. <p>By is used with a verb showing motion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We walked by your house this morning. • Who was that man who just ran by us? <p>For transportation, the idiom on foot is commonly used:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No, I didn't go there by taxi. I went on foot. 	

Preposition

When **by** is used for a **time**, however, the meaning is **not later than**:

- The meeting will start at 9:00. Please be here **by** (not later than) 8:55.
- I expect to finish my report **by** (not later than) Friday.

When **by** is used with a **reflexive** ("self") pronoun, the meaning is **alone** or **without** help:

- No, thank you. I can do this **by myself**.
- Mahesh is paying his college costs **by himself**.

By is also used to show the **method** of doing something:

- He paid for dinner **by** credit card / **by** check.
- Admission to the reception is **by** invitation only.

For manner or method of payment, the idiom **in cash** is also common:

- No, I didn't pay **by** check or credit card. I paid **in cash** (or paid cash)

by is also, used with **measurements**:

- He's renting a car **by** the week. (He's renting a car one week at a time.)
- Eggs are usually sold **by** the dozen. (Sold a dozen [12] at a time.)
- The costs of mailing a package vary **by** weight.

By can be used to show **agents** (doers of actions) in passive sentences when the object and the action are emphasized more than the subject.

- Was that poem written **by** Ravindranath?
- The agreement will be signed **by** the presidents..
- The operation is going to be performed **by** a team of surgeons.

By can also be used to show **extent** or **amount**:

- That car almost hit us! It missed us **by** only a few inches!
- Mehdi is heavier than his twin brother **by** at least twenty pounds.
- Johnson won the election **by** more than 20,000 votes.
- The game was close. The Comets won **by** just two points.

preposition			
<h3>In spite of / despite / notwithstanding</h3> <p><i>In spite of, despite, & notwithstanding</i> have a similar meaning to <i>although, or even though</i>. They express a contrast between two things.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>He got the job in spite of his bad record.</i>• <i>His firm is doing good business despite the recession.</i>• <i>He got an entry in spite of/despite coming late.</i>• We went notwithstanding the weather			
concerning	It means- about, regarding <ul style="list-style-type: none">• information concerning matters of national security		
considering	used to mention particular condition or fact about something, usually disadvantage: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Considering the weather, we got here pretty quickly.		
cum	used to join two nouns, showing that a person or thing does two things or has two purposes; combined with: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• This is my computer monitor cum TV.		
down	Toward lower position, from higher one: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Water is coming down. / Blinds were down.• Mahesh lives a few steps from us.		
For, Since & From	<p>“For” is used for indication “period of time”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• He is absent for a week <p>“Since” indicates specific time and used present perfect tense</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• I have not seen him since yesterday <p>“From” is used for indicating a specific time in all tense</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• I shall begin my work from tomorrow <table><tr><th>No preposition</th></tr><tr><td><ul style="list-style-type: none">• next week, year, month, etc• last night, year, etc• this morning, month, etc• every day, night, years, etc• today, tomorrow, yesterday</td></tr></table>	No preposition	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• next week, year, month, etc• last night, year, etc• this morning, month, etc• every day, night, years, etc• today, tomorrow, yesterday
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Preposition	
to	<p>'To' is used when there is a specific destination in mind. The destination can be a number of things:</p> <p>A place- I'm going to the doctor.</p> <p>Can you direct me to the nearest post office?</p> <p>An event- Are you going to the party?</p> <p>A person- I go to my father for advice.</p> <p>A position-The bathroom is to your left. / Keep to the left.</p>
toward (US) towards (UK)	<p>Towards is used when one has moved in a particular direction in mind, rather than simply a destination:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He was walking menacingly towards me. <p>It is also used to refer to a position, in relation to a direction from the point of view of the speaker:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He was sitting with his back towards me.
through (UK) thru (US)	<p>Through- refers movement within a space, which may be surrounding, enclosing, or around the object:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The train went through the tunnel. <p>Movement across something, i.e. from one side of it the other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He cut through the gauze.
Till and until	<p>Both indicate when something will happen, begin or end</p> <p>e.g.- Wait till/until I come</p>
Versus	<p>it means 'against' e.g. Test match Pakistan v/s England</p>
Via	<p>It means 'travelling through'</p> <p>e.g.- They came to India via China</p>

preposition

Try to understand the meaning and use of following complex prepositions

according to	per	next to
ahead of	plus	on account of
along with	due to	on behalf of
apart from	except for	on board
as for	further to	opposite to
as per	In addition to	other than
as to	In between	out of
as well as	In case of	out side of
away from	beside	prior to
with regards to	In favour of	regardless of
by means of	In front of	save for
close to	In lieu of	In front of
contrary to	In view of	vis-à-vis (from french)
depending on	irrespective of	with reference to
pending	near to	up to