



# SNS COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY

(An Autonomous Institution)

COIMBATORE-35

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH



## Preposition

A preposition is a word or group of words used before a noun, pronoun, or noun phrase to show direction, time, place, location, spatial relationships, or to introduce an object. Some examples of prepositions are words like "in," "at," "on," "of," and "to."

### A Few Rules

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#### Prepositions of Direction

To refer to a direction, use the prepositions "to," "in," "into," "on," and "onto."

- She drove *to* the store.
- Don't ring the doorbell. Come right *in(to)* the house.
- Drive *on(to)* the grass and park the car there.

#### Prepositions of Time

To refer to one point in time, use the prepositions "in," "at," and "on."

Use "in" with parts of the day (not specific times), months, years, and seasons.

- He reads *in* the evening.
- The weather is cold *in* December.
- She was born *in* 1996.
- We rake leaves *in* the fall.

Use "at" with the time of day. Also use "at" with noon, night, and midnight.

- I go to work *at* 8:00.
- He eats lunch *at* noon.
- She often goes for a walk *at* night.
- They go to bed *at* midnight.

Use "on" with days.

- I work *on* Saturdays.
- He does laundry *on* Wednesdays.

To refer to extended time, use the prepositions "since," "for," "by," "during," "from...to," "from...until," "with," and "within."

- I have lived in Minneapolis *since* 2005. (I moved there in 2005 and still live there.)
- He will be in Toronto *for* 3 weeks. (He will spend 3 weeks in Toronto.)
- She will finish her homework *by* 6:00. (She will finish her homework sometime between now and 6:00.)
- He works part time *during* the summer. (For the period of time throughout the summer.)
- I will collect data *from* January *to* June. (Starting in January and ending in June.)
- They are in school *from* August *until* May. (Starting in August and ending in May.)
- She will graduate *within* 2 years. (Not longer than 2 years.)

### Prepositions of Place

To refer to a place, use the prepositions "in" (the point itself), "at" (the general vicinity), "on" (the surface), and "inside" (something contained).

- They will meet *in* the lunchroom.
- She was waiting *at* the corner.
- He left his phone *on* the bed.
- Place the pen *inside* the drawer.

To refer to an object higher than a point, use the prepositions "over" and "above." To refer to an object lower than a point, use the prepositions "below," "beneath," "under," and "underneath."

- The bird flew *over* the house.
- The plates were on the shelf *above* the cups.
- Basements are dug *below* ground.
- There is hard wood *beneath* the carpet.
- The squirrel hid the nuts *under* a pile of leaves.
- The cat is hiding *underneath* the box.

To refer to an object close to a point, use the prepositions "by," "near," "next to," "between," "among," and "opposite."

- The gas station is *by* the grocery store.
- The park is *near* her house.
- Park your bike *next to* the garage.
- There is a deer *between* the two trees.
- There is a purple flower *among* the weeds.
- The garage is *opposite* the house.

### Prepositions of Location

To refer to a location, use the prepositions "in" (an area or volume), "at" (a point), and "on" (a surface).

- They live *in* the country. (an area)
- She will find him *at* the library. (a point)
- There is a lot of dirt *on* the window. (a surface)

### Prepositions of Spatial Relationships

To refer to a spatial relationship, use the prepositions "above," "across," "against," "ahead of," "along," "among," "around," "behind," "below," "beneath," "beside," "between," "from," "in front of," "inside," "near," "off," "out of," "through," "toward," "under," and "within."

- The post office is *across* the street from the grocery store.
- We will stop at many attractions *along* the way.
- The kids are hiding *behind* the tree.
- His shirt is *off*.
- Walk *toward* the garage and then turn left.
- Place a check mark *within* the box.

### Exercise 1 – Fill in the blanks with appropriate prepositions

1. This shop doesn't have the toys I was looking \_\_\_. (up/for)
2. The teacher divided the sweets \_\_\_ all the children. (between/among)
3. Bruce did not fare well \_\_\_ his examination. (in/at)

4. The dog is grateful \_\_\_ its owner. (to/for)
5. My brother's anniversary is \_\_\_ 5th November. (on/in)
6. The boy \_\_\_ the store is quite young. (at/on)
7. Mahatma Gandhi was born \_\_\_ 2nd October. (on/in)
8. Rupert is fond \_\_\_ muffins. (of/off)
9. The dog jumped \_\_\_ the sofa. (on/in)
10. Humpty Dumpty sat \_\_\_ a wall. (on/at)
11. The police officer is \_\_\_ the station. (at/on)
12. The Sun will not rise \_\_\_ 6 o'clock. (before/since)
13. I know Jack \_\_\_ he was a little boy. (for/since)
14. Priya's house is \_\_\_ mine. (next to/after)
15. The opponents sat \_\_\_ to each other. (opposite/behind)
16. The scientist looked \_\_\_ the microscope. (through/in)
17. I met Suhani when I was \_\_\_ college. (in/on)
18. I will have completed my task \_\_\_ Friday. (till/by)
19. There's a rift \_\_\_ these two kids. (between/among)
20. The soldiers are \_\_\_ war. (in/at)

**Answers –**

1. For
2. Among
3. In
4. To
5. On
6. At
7. On
8. Of
9. On
10. On
11. At
12. Before
13. Since
14. Next to
15. Opposite
16. Through

- 17.In
- 18.By
- 19.Between
- 20.At

### **Exercise 2 – Underline and identify the prepositions**

Read the text given below and underline the prepositions.

On a very hot and sunny day, a thirsty crow was flying in search of water. Due to the hot weather, most of the ponds had dried up. Suddenly, he saw a vessel on the ground. When he flew towards it, he saw there was very little water at the bottom of the vessel. While thinking about how he could drink that water, he saw little pebbles lying around. He started dropping them one by one into the vessel. After some time, the water level rose. The thirsty crow quenched its thirst and flew away happily.

*Answer –*

**On** a very hot and sunny day, a thirsty crow was flying **in** search of water. Due **to** the hot weather, most **of** the ponds had dried up. Suddenly, he saw a vessel **on** the ground. When he flew **towards** it, he saw there was very little water **at** the bottom **of** the vessel. While thinking about how he could drink that water, he saw little pebbles lying **around**. He started dropping them one by one **into** the vessel. After some time, the water level rose. The thirsty crow quenched its thirst and flew away happily.