

## Definition of a Preposition

A preposition is defined as “a word that connects a noun, a noun phrase, or a pronoun to another word, esp. to a verb, another noun, or an adjective”, according to the Cambridge Dictionary. The Oxford Learner’s Dictionary says that a preposition is “a word or group of words, such as *in*, *from*, *to*, *out of* and *on behalf of*, used before a noun or pronoun to show place, position, time or method.”

The Collins Dictionary defines a preposition as “a word such as ‘by’, ‘for’, ‘into’, or ‘with’ which usually has a noun group as its object.” The Merriam Webster Dictionary provides a slightly different definition. According to it, a preposition is defined as “a function word that typically combines with a noun phrase to form a phrase which usually expresses a modification or predication.”

## Uses of Prepositions

Prepositions are seen to show some key characteristics and perform some vital functions when used in sentences. Let us look at the various uses of prepositions in English.

- They are used to show the direction of something.
- They can refer to the time of something happening.
- They can be used to denote the position or location of an object in the sentence.
- They are also used to represent spatial relationships.
- Prepositional phrases, in particular, can be used to do all of these when used in sentences.

## Types of Prepositions

Based on the different uses and functions of prepositions, they can be divided into four main types. They are as follows:

- **Prepositions of Time** – used to show when something is happening.

For example:

- We will be meeting **on** Friday.

- The supermarket will be closed **from** 9 p.m. **to** 9 a.m.
- Can you come **after** some time?
- We have been asked to work from home **until** the end of May.
- The whole country was asked to stay home **during** the pandemic to ensure safety and well-being.

- **Prepositions of Place** – indicate the place or position of something.

For example:

- 
- I have kept the book I borrowed from you **on** the table.
- Henry hid **behind** the door.
- The dog jumped **over** the fence.
- Can you place the red roses in **between** the white daisies?
- He was waiting **in front of** the EB office.
- **Prepositions of Direction** – used to denote the direction in which something travels or moves.

For example:

- 
- The girl ran **toward** her father the moment she saw him.
- Jerry jumped **into** the river to help his sister.
- Veena passed the book **to** Priya.
- When will Salvia be returning **from** London?
- Neena lives **across** the street.
- **Prepositions of Location** – employed to denote the location of a particular object.

For example:

- 
- Kenny would be staying **at** his cousin's place for the weekend.
- Make sure you keep all the toys back **in** its place after you play.
- I lay **on** the floor for a really long time.
- **Prepositions of Spatial Relationship** – used to denote an object's movement away from the source and towards a source.

For example:

- 
- Navya sat leaning **against** the wall.

- The circus was stationed **opposite** the children's park.
- Lakshmi sat **beneath** the trees.
- Shankar sat **beside** the stairs.
- We spent the evening walking **around** the lake.
- **Prepositional Phrase** – a combination of a preposition and a noun (the object it is affecting).

For example:

- 
- See to it that you reach the venue **on time**.
- The medicines you asked for are **out of stock**.
- Why don't we try taking classes outside **for a change**.
- Make sure you fill in all the forms **at once**.
- Salmaan was able to finish it only **with the help of** his friends.

## Examples of Prepositions Used in Sentences

To know how exactly prepositions can be used in sentences, check out the following sentences.

- I will be going **to** church **in** the morning.
- She placed the plates **on** the dining table.
- Baskar found the cat hiding **under** the bed.
- Will you be **with** Raimy or Mazeeka?
- I love sitting **on** the beach **at** night.
- Rachel met Phoebe **by** the lake.
- Finn stood **opposite** Lisa.
- The grocery store is right **in front of** the bus stop.
- My brother climbed **onto** the roof.
- It feels great to sit **beneath** the trees and read.