



SNS COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Kurumbapalayam (Po), Coimbatore – 641 107



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PREPOSITIONS

A preposition connects a noun or pronoun to another word in a sentence. It indicates a relationship of place, time, direction, cause, purpose, means etc. It has special functions as part of a verb or an adverb. Like adverbs, it is difficult to recognize prepositions just from the form of the words. In fact, some words can function both as prepositions and as adverbs or even conjunctions.

Prepositions are words (such as *in* and *out*, *above* and *below*, *to* and *from*) that show the relationship between other words and phrases in a sentence. Prepositions often show location (“*under* the table”), direction (“*to* the south”), or time (“*past* midnight”). Prepositions are the words that indicate location. Usually, prepositions show this location in the physical world. Check out the three examples below:



The puppy is on the floor. The puppy is in the trash can. The puppy is beside the phone.

On, in, and beside are all prepositions. They are showing *where* the puppy is. Prepositions can also show location in *time*. Read the next three examples:

At midnight, Jill craved mashed potatoes with grape jelly.

In the spring, I always vow to plant tomatoes but end up buying them at the supermarket.

During the marathon, Iggy’s legs complained with sharp pains shooting up his thighs.

At midnight, in the spring, and during the marathon all show location in time.

Because there are so many possible locations, there are quite a few prepositions. Below is the complete list.

about

concerning

onto

above

despite

on top of

according to

down

out



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across	during	out of
after	except	outside
against	except for	over
along	excepting	past
along with	for	regarding
among	from	round
apart from	in	since
around	in addition to	through
as	in back of	throughout
as for	in case of	till
at	in front of	to
because of	in place of	toward
before	inside	under
behind	in spite of	underneath
below	instead of	unlike
beneath	into	until
beside	like	up
between	near	upon
beyond	next	up to
but*	of	with
by	off	within
by means of	on	without

Prepositions of Time: *at*, *on*, and *in*

We use *a* to designate specific times.

The train is due at 12:15 p.m.

We use *on* to designate days and dates.

My brother is coming on Monday.

We're having a party on the Fourth of July.

We use *in* for nonspecific times during a day, a month, a season, or a year.

She likes to jog in the morning.



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It's too cold in winter to run outside.

He started the job in 1971.

He's going to quit in August.

Prepositions of Place: *at, on, and in*

We use *at* for specific addresses. Grammar English lives at 55 Boretz Road in Durham.

We use *on* to designate names of streets, avenues, etc. Her house is on Boretz Road.

And we use *in* for the names of land-areas (towns, counties, states, countries, and continents).

She lives in Durham.

Durham is in Windham County. Windham County is in Connecticut

Prepositions with Nouns, Adjectives, and Verbs.

Prepositions are sometimes so firmly wedded to other words that they have practically become one word. (In fact, in other languages, such as German, they would have become one word.) This occurs in three categories: nouns, adjectives, and verbs.

NOUNS and PREPOSITIONS

approval of	fondness for	need for
awareness of	grasp of	participation in
belief in	hatred of	reason for
concern for	hope for	respect for
confusion about	interest in	success in
desire for	love of	understanding of

ADJECTIVES AND PREPOSITIONS

afraid of	fond of	proud of
angry at	happy about	similar to
aware of	interested in	sorry for
capable of	jealous of	sure of
careless about	made of	tired of



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familiar with married to worried about

VERBS AND PREPOSITIONS

apologize for	give up	prepare for
ask about	grow up	study for
ask for	look for	talk about
belong to	look forward to	think about
bring up	look up	trust in
care for	make up	work for
find out	pay for	worry about

Prepositions of Location: *in, at, and on* and No Preposition

IN	AT	ON	NO PREPOSITION
(the) bed*	class*	the bed*	downstairs
the bedroom	home	the ceiling	downtown
the car	the library*	the floor	inside
(the) class*	the office	the horse	outside
the library*	school*	the plane	upstairs
school*	work	the train	uptown

* You may sometimes use different prepositions for these locations.

Prepositions of Movement: *to* and *No Preposition*

We use *to* in order to express movement toward a place.

They were driving to work together.

She's going to the dentist's office this morning.

Toward and *towards* are also helpful prepositions to express movement. These are simply variant spellings of the same word; use whichever sounds better to you.

We're moving toward the light.

This is a big step towards the project's completion.

With the words home, downtown, uptown, inside, outside, downstairs, upstairs, we use no preposition.

Grandma went upstairs



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Grandpa went home.

They both went outside.

Prepositions of Time: *for* and *since*

We use *for* when we measure time (seconds, minutes, hours, days, months, years).

He held his breath for seven minutes.

She's lived there for seven years.

The British and Irish have been quarreling for seven centuries.

We use *since* with a specific date or time.

He's worked here since 1970.

She's been sitting in the waiting room since two-thirty.

A combination of verb and preposition is called a **phrasal verb**. The word that is joined to the verb is then called a **particle**. Please refer to the brief section we have prepared on [phrasal verbs](#) for an explanation.

Idiomatic Expressions with Prepositions

- agree to a proposal, with a person, on a price, in principle
- argue about a matter, with a person, for or against a proposition
- compare to to show likenesses, with to show differences (sometimes similarities)
- correspond to a thing, with a person
- differ from an unlike thing, with a person
- live at an address, in a house or city, on a street, with other people

Bloopers / Unnecessary Prepositions

In everyday speech, we fall into some bad habits, using prepositions where they are not necessary. It would be a good idea to eliminate these words altogether, but we must be especially careful not to use them in formal, academic prose.

- She met ~~up with~~ the new coach in the hallway.
- The book fell off ~~of~~ the desk.
- He threw the book out ~~of~~ the window.
- She wouldn't let the cat inside ~~of~~ the house. [or use "in"]
- Where did they go ~~to~~?
- Put the lamp in back of the couch. [use "behind" instead]
- Where is your college ~~at~~?

Put in the correct preposition (at, in, on, or no preposition):



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Exercise 1

1. Lucy is arriving ____ February the 13th ____ 8 o'clock ____ the morning.
2. The weather is often terrible in London ____ January.
3. It's better to get a taxi if you are out alone ____ night.
4. She got married ____ September.
5. They usually go to the south of France ____ the summer.
6. Columbus sailed to the Americas ____ the 16th century.
7. The Beatles were popular ____ the 1960s.
8. I graduated from university ____ 2001.
9. His birthday is ____ June.

10. I usually go to my parents' house ____ Christmas. We eat turkey together ____
Christmas Day
11. The train leaves ____ tomorrow morning ____ 8:00 AM.
12. I love going skiing ____ January
13. We met at the restaurant ____ 8 pm.
14. The class is ____ 9am ____ Monday mornings.
15. I like to drink coffee ____ the morning and tea ____
the afternoon.
16. We went out for dinner ____ last Wednesday.
17. She left London ____ the 4th of March
18. I had a party ____ my birthday.
19. Lucy went to New York ____ New Year.
20. We're meeting ____ lunchtime ____ next Tuesday.



Exercise 2

Prepositions of Place

1. He's swimming ____ the river.
2. Where's Julie? She's ____ School.
3. The plant is ____ the table.
4. There is a spider ____ the bath.
5. Please put those apples ____ the bowl.
6. Frank is ____ holiday for three weeks.



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7. There are two pockets _____ this bag.
8. I read the story _____ the newspaper.
9. The cat is sitting _____ the chair.
10. Lucy was standing _____ the bus stop.
11. I'll meet you _____ the cinema.
12. She hung a picture _____ the wall.
13. John is _____ the garden.
14. There's nothing _____ TV tonight.
15. I stayed _____ home all weekend.
16. When I called Lucy, she was _____ the bus.
17. There was a spider _____ the ceiling.
18. Unfortunately, Mrs Brown is _____ hospital.
19. Don't sit _____ the table, sit _____ a chair.
20. There are four cushions _____ the sofa.

Exercise 3

Verbs and Prepositions

1. Stop worrying _____ your exam - everything will be fine.
2. I've waited _____ Judy for 30 minutes. I'm going home.
3. Stop talking and concentrate _____ your work.
4. Don't forget to pay _____ the newspaper.
5. He explained the computer program _____ me.
6. I don't know what we'll do at the weekend. It depends _____ the weather
7. She will arrive _____ Beijing at 3 p.m.
8. I like to listen _____ the radio when I wake up
9. He borrowed £20 _____ his brother.
10. Who does this coat belong _____?
11. She left without paying _____ the meal.
12. It was so hot, I couldn't concentrate _____ my book.
13. Mothers always worry _____ their children.
14. Please explain the meaning of this word _____ your classmates.



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15. I'm fed up with waiting _____ spring.
16. That car belongs _____ my father.
17. She listens _____ opera on the tube.
18. A: Which university will you go to? B: It depends _____ my exam results.
19. A lot of people borrow money _____ the bank.
20. When she arrived _____ the pub, it was already closed.

Exercise 4

Fill the gaps with the correct prepositions:-

1. We live ___ London.
2. Would you like to go ___ the cinema tonight?
3. No, thanks. I was ___ the cinema yesterday.
4. We are going ___ holiday next week.
5. There is a bridge ___ the river.
6. The flight from Leipzig ___ London was via Frankfurt.
7. ___ my wall, there are many picture postcards.
8. Who is the person ___ this picture?
9. Come ___ the sitting room, we want to watch TV
10. Munich lies 530 meters _____ sea level.

Exercise 5

Complete the exercise according to the picture:-

1. _____ the picture, I can see Santa Claus and a girl.
2. Santa is sitting _____ a chair
3. The girl is standing _____ Santa.
4. Santa and the girl are looking _____ each other.
5. The girl has a present _____ her hands.
6. _____ the girl, there is a Christmas tree.
7. There are more presents _____ the tree.
8. Santa's big bag is lying _____ the floor

Exercise 6



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Fill the gaps with the correct prepositions:-

1. He made his escape by jumping _____ a window and jumping _____ a waiting car.
a. Over/ into b. between/ into c. Out of/ between. d. Out of/ between
e. Out of/ into f. Up to/ out of
2. To get to the Marketing department, you have to go _____ those stairs and then _____ the corridor to the end.
a. Over/into b. Between/into c. Out of/ between d. Out of/ into
e. Up/belong
3. I saw something about it _____ television.
a. In b. on c. at d. through
e. with
4. I couldn't get in _____ the door so I had to climb _____ a window.
a. Through/ in b. Between/ into c. Out of/ between d. Out of/ into
e. Up/ along
5. He drove _____ me without stopping and drove off _____ the centre of town.
a. Through/in b. Between/into c. Out of/ between d. Out of/ into
e. Up/along
6. She took the key _____ her pocket and put it _____ the lock.
a. Over/ into b. Between/ into c. Out of/ in d. By/on
e. Up to/ out of
7. I took the old card _____ the computer and put _____ the new one.
a. Through/in b. Out of/in c. Out of/between d. Out of/ into
e. Up/along
8. I went _____ him and asked him the best way to get _____ town.
a. From/into b. Towards/over c. Along/up d. By/on
e. Upto/out of
9. It's unlucky to walk _____ a ladder in my culture. I always walk _____ them.
a. through/ in b. out of/in c. under/around d. out of/ into
e. up/along
10. The restaurant is _____ the High Street, _____ the cinema.
a. Through/ in b. Out of/ in c. Under/ around d. In/ next to



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- e. Up/ along
11. Sally left school _____ the age of 16 and went to work _____ a bank.
a. Through/ in b. Out of/ in c. Under/ around d. In/ next to
e. at/in
12. He jumped _____ the wall and _____ the garden.
a. Over/ into b. Towards/ over c. Along/ up d. By/ on
e. Up to/ out of
13. He was driving _____ 180 miles per hour when he crashed _____ the central barrier.
a. At/ into b. Out of/ in c. Under/ around d. In/ next to
e. to/ in
14. She ran _____ the corridor and _____ the stairs to the second floor.
a. From/ into b. towards/ over c. Along/ up d. By/ on
e. In/ next to
15. John is the person standing _____ the window, _____ the woman with long blonde hair.
a. At/ into b. Beside/ next to c. Under/ around d. In/ next to
e. At/ in
16. When the bull ran _____ me, I jumped _____ the fence.
a. From/ into b. Towards/ over c. Beside/ next to d. By/ on
e. In/ next to
17. Look, that car's _____ fire.
a. Through b. With c. In d. into
e. On
18. He saw a parking space _____ two cars and drove _____ it.
a. over/ into b. Between/ into c. Along/ up d. By/ on
e. Up to/ out of
19. Harry comes to work _____ car but I prefer to come _____ foot.
a. At/ into b. Beside/ next to c. By/ on d. In/ next to
e. At/ in
20. He took the book _____ the shelf and put it _____ his bag.
a. From/ into b. At/ into c. Beside/ next to d. By / on



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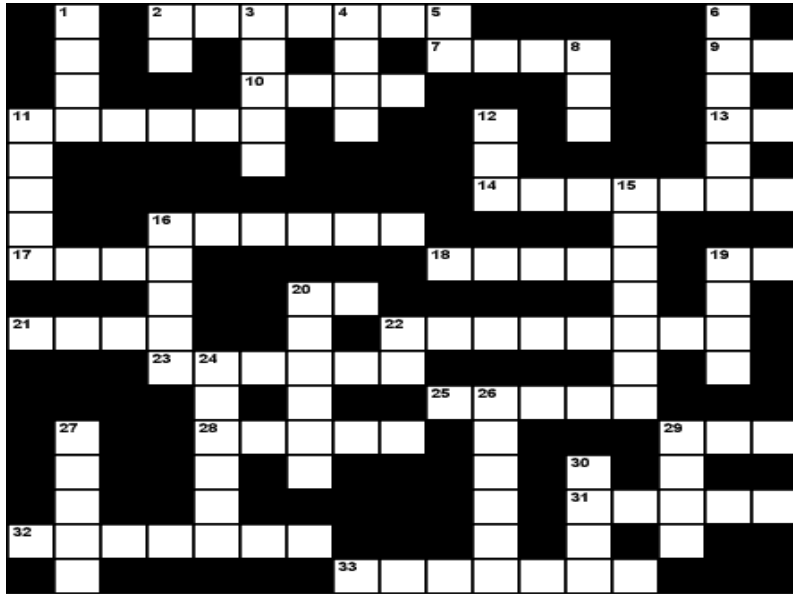
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e. In/ next to

Activity based learning

Prepositions Crossword



Across

2. We fought _____ the ballot measure.
7. The cat jumped ____ the table.
9. The cat climbed ____ the tree.
10. My story is shorter ____ yours.
11. Cats are ____ dogs.
13. Put the cookie ____ the jar.
14. Let's walk _____ the park.
16. The vegetables were planted _____ the apple tree.
17. Betty sings ____ a bird.

Down

1. I put the book _____ the table.
2. Please treat us ____ equals.
3. Desert will be served _____ dinner.
4. My house is _____ the school.
5. We walked ____ the store.
6. No gum chewing _____ class.
8. The book fell ____ my desk.
11. I will not leave _____ the speech is finished.
12. The store is open everyday ____ Sunday.



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18. My story is _____ my pets.
19. Bobby is the president _____ our class.
20. We live _____ the river.
21. Let's walk _____ class together.
22. The bank is _____ the park.
23. We live _____ the city limits.
25. I saw Jonny waving _____ the crowd.
28. I am more cautious _____ the fall.
29. I have a present _____ you.
31. We strolled _____ the river.
32. He ran _____ us.
33. I put the letter _____ the library books.
15. The dog is _____ the house.
16. The cat is hiding _____ my bed.
19. The cat jumped _____ the dog.
20. He is hiding _____ the bookcase.
22. Dinner is _____ the table.
24. I put my hands _____ my gloves.
26. We will eat _____ the play.
27. The cat is sleeping _____ the bed.
29. This letter is _____ my aunt.
30. We ran _____ the other kids.



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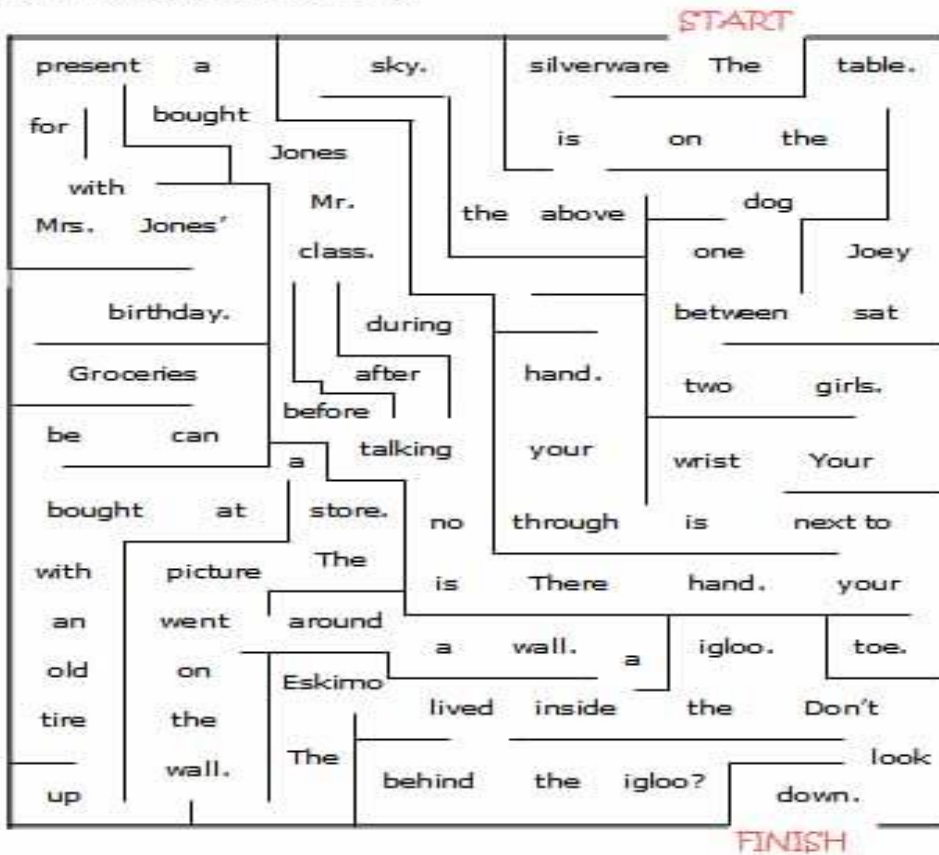
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Sentence Maze

Prepositions

Directions: Connect the words in each sentence. Find your way from the beginning of the maze to the end.



You tube links:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=caLxp5UvHlo>(preposition)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XYBnvCphgtw>(preposition)

<http://www.learnerstv.com/video/Free-video-Lecture-6677-Language.htm>(Prepositions)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UiqB>

[GZTZP6Q](#) (prepositions)

<http://grammar.about.com/od/pq/g/prepositerm.htm> php#.U-ImpM7WWdE

Project:

Go through the chart given below and prepare a demonstration model for explaining the proper usage of prepositions

Topic: Prepositions



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