

PREPOSITIONS

Definition:

A **preposition** is a word used to link nouns, pronouns, or phrases to other words within a sentence. **Prepositions** are usually short words, and they are normally placed directly in front of nouns. In some cases, you'll find **prepositions** in front of gerund verbs.

Eg: in, with, behind, from, under, to, across....

The different important relations marked by prepositions are:

Time - I'll see you at six in the evening.

Position - Please put the book on the table.

Direction - Do you walk to college?

Association - She lives with her parents.

Agency - The window must have been broken by a football.

Instrumentality - Ramu finds it hard to write with a pen.

Manner - Do you like to travel by bus?

The same prepositions may express different relations in different contexts:

1. She sat by the door. (Position)
2. Can you finish this work by Sunday? (Time)
3. You can go to England by air or by sea. (Manner)
4. Meet me at the station. (Place)
5. Don't throw the ball at me. (Direction)
6. He goes to college at 10'o clock. (Time)

Types of Prepositions

There are three types of prepositions, including time prepositions, place prepositions, and direction prepositions.

Time prepositions are those such as *before*, *after*, *during*, and *until*; **place prepositions** are those indicating position, such as *around*, *between*, and *against*; and **direction prepositions** are those indicative of direction, such as *across*, *up*, and *down*. Each type of preposition is important.

Examples of Prepositions

1. He swam *across* the pool.
2. Take your brother *with* you.
3. Please sign your name *on* the dotted line *after* you read the contract.
4. Go *down* the stairs and *through* the door.
5. He climbed *up* the ladder to get *into* the attic.

Here are a few examples of important uses of frequently used prepositions:

1. **Above:** higher than, over The birds were flying above the trees.
2. **Across:** From one side to the other. A new bridge is being built across the river.
3. **After:** later than, next, following in time or order Meet me after six o'clock.
4. **Along:** from one end to the other end, in a line next to the length of They were walking along the road. Colourful trees grew along the road.
5. **Among:** surrounded by, from one person, one of She builds a house among the mountains.
6. **At:** used to show a point of time, used with something seen as a point in space, towards He asked me to meet him at 2'o clock.
7. **Behind:** at the back of, supporting, inferior to She stood behind her husband.
8. **Below:** lower than, lower than in amount, rank etc.,
The picture hung just below the window.
Children below the age of 5 are not admitted here.
9. **Between:** used generally for two reference points to show position or connection or division
She sat between her husband and her father.
You can meet him between five and six o'clock.
She divided the cake between her two children.
10. **By:** near, beside, by way of, by means of, used to show the agent of the action
When I saw her she was standing by the window.
Due to urgent work she had to leave by the first train.

Meghdoot was written by Kalidas.

11. **For:** used to show a receiver of something, on behalf of, in exchange of, in search of, towards, used for, in support of, during

She cooked the rice for her son.

She gave me Rs. 10,000 for my house.

12. **From:** used to show a starting point in time or in place or in order or position, sent, given, supplied, produced or provided by, based on, compared with, showing separation or distance

They worked from morning to night. Many birds come from morning to night.

She is different from her brother in character.

He lives 45 miles from the village.

13. **In:** during a period of time, after a period of time, used before the names of towns, cities, countries etc, used to show a state or position.

She answered all the questions in 30 minutes.

The train will leave in three hours.

14. **Into:** to the inside of [shows motion or direction or change of condition]

She asked me to come into the classroom.

He wants to translate Gitanjali into Tamil.

The rain changed into snow.

15. **Of:** belonging to, from, about, having

The wood of this table is quite old.

Nepal is to the north of India.

16. **On:** on top of [touching the surface] used to show a general position: used to show a position in time, about.

Can you see the cat on the roof?

We are informed that the monkey was on the roof.

He gave a talk on Social work.

17. **Over:** above, [without touching], vertically above, about

A picture hung over the door.

Grass is growing over the airport.

There was an iron box over the table.

18. **Since:** from a point of past time till now, during the period after

I haven't seen her since last week.

It is a long time since our last visit to Mumbai.

19. **Through:** in at one end and out at the other, by way of, by means of, as a result of

They passed through a big tunnel.

The burglar came in through the open stairs.

20. **Under:** lower than, vertically below, less than

There is a black spot under her left eye.

He sat under the tree.

Preposition Exercises

The following exercises will help you gain greater understanding about how prepositions work. Choose the best answer to complete each sentence.

1. The bone was _____ the dog.

1. About
2. For
3. After
4. Considering

Answer: B. The bone was *for* the dog.

2. We are going on vacation _____ August.

1. On
2. At
3. In
4. Since

Answer: C. We are going on vacation *in* August.

3. Please put the vase _____ the table.

1. In
2. On
3. For
4. Over

Answer: B. Please put the vase *on* the table.

4. I received a present _____ Janet.

1. From
2. Of
3. By
4. About

Answer: A. I received a present *from* Janet.

5. School begins _____ Monday.

1. In
2. On
3. From
4. Since

Answer: B. School begins *on* Monday.

EXERCISE

I.Fill in the blanks in the following sentences with suitable prepositions:

1. The apartment consists _____ three bed-rooms, a kitchen and two bathrooms.
2. The accident took place because of my fault, so I had to pay _____ the damage.
3. It is terrible that some people are dying _____ hunger while others eat too much.
4. You know that you can depend _____ me whenever you need help.
5. One _____ India's priorities is growing more food.
6. There are countless opportunities _____ qualified computer personnel.
7. Gold is a rare metal _____ a beautiful yellow colour.
8. 10 degrees is the limit _____ which the nozzle controls the steam flow.
9. The earth's reserves of fossil fuels have been formed _____ organic matter subjected _____ enormous heat and pressure _____ millions of years. But such reserves are finite. Because power demand is increasing very rapidly, fossil fuels will be exhausted _____ a relatively short time.
10. The ore is then transported _____ mills.