

PREPOSITION

DEFINITION OF PREPOSITION

A function word that typically combines with a noun phrase to form a phrase which usually expresses a modification or predication.

EXAMPLES OF PREPOSITION IN A SENTENCE

1. The preposition “on” in “The keys are on the table” shows location.
2. The preposition “in” in “The movie starts in one hour” shows time.

Prepositions show direction, location, or time, or introduce an object. They are usually followed by an object—a noun, noun phrase, or pronoun. The most common prepositions are little and very common: at, by, for, from, in, of, on, to, with

Also common are:

about, above, across, after, against, along, among, around, because of, before, behind, below, beneath, beside, between, close to, down, during, except, inside, instead of, into, like, near, off, on top of, onto, out of, outside, over, past, since, through, toward, under, until, up, upon, within, without

Types of Preposition

A preposition is a word which expresses relationship of a noun or a pronoun to other words of the sentence.

e.g. *'in, of, to, at, by, for, with, under, above, into, onto, upon, about, behind, beside, before, after, towards, inside, outside, below, around'* are commonly used examples of prepositions.

There are six types of prepositions:

1. Prepositions for Time
2. Prepositions for Place
3. Prepositions for Direction
4. Prepositions for Agent
5. Prepositions for Instruments
6. Prepositional Phrases

Prepositions	Time Nature
In	<p>1. Months or Years <i>e.g. in March, in 2005</i></p> <p>2. Particular time of a day or a month or an year <i>e.g. in evening, in morning, in the 3rd week of April, in winter, in summer</i></p> <p>3. A century or a specific time in past or future etc <i>e.g. in the 20th century, in early days, in the stone age, in future, in past,</i></p>
On	<p>1. A Day <i>e.g. on Sunday</i></p> <p>2. Dates <i>e.g. on 7th of February, on February 7</i></p> <p>3. Particular days <i>e.g. on my birthday, on Independence Day</i></p>
At	<p>1. Time of a clock <i>e.g. at 3 O'clock, at 4:20 PM</i></p> <p>2. Short & precise times <i>e.g. at night, at sunset, at noon, at lunch time, at the moment, at bed time,</i></p>

2 Prepositions for Place (e.g. on, at, in)

These prepositions are used for several of types of places. e.g. *on, at, in*.

- “In” is mostly used for a place having some sort of (physical or virtual) boundary.
- “On” is usually used for a surface
- “At” is usually used for a specific place.

Prepositions	Nature of the Places
In	Place having some (physical or virtual) boundary Examples: <i>In a hall</i> <i>In a school</i> <i>In the building</i> <i>In the box</i> <i>In the car</i> <i>In a library</i> <i>In a garden</i> <i>In England</i> <i>In a room</i> <i>In a cupboard</i>

On	Surfaces of things. Examples: <i>On the table</i> <i>On the blackboard</i> <i>On the page</i> <i>On a wall</i> <i>On a roof</i> <i>On the map</i>
At	Specific Places: Examples: <i>At bus stop</i> <i>At the entrance</i> <i>At front of the chair</i> <i>At the bottom of glass</i> <i>At the edge of roof</i>

3 Prepositions for Direction (e.g. into, to, through, towards)

These prepositions express the direction of something. e.g. **into, to, through, towards**

Examples:

- They are going **to** classroom.
- The snake was coming **toward** her.
- He threw a ball **into** a river.

4 Prepositions for Agent (e.g. by, with)

These prepositions are used to express a causal relationship between the noun (doer) and an action. *e.g. by, with etc*

Examples:

- A nice book was written **by** John Keats.
- A lot of noise was made **by** the kids.
- The task was finished **by** him.
- Some schools have been made **by** Government. ▪ Have they gone to their college?

5 Prepositions for Instrument, Devices, or Machines

Such prepositions are used for joining nouns (instruments, devices, machines etc) to other words in the sentence. *e.g. on, by, with the help of, etc.*

Examples:

- He went to home **by** a car.
- This lock cannot be opened **with** the key.
- She watered the plants **with the help of** a water-pipe.
- He broke the wall **with** a hammer.

Prepositions exercise

Fill in the blanks with appropriate prepositions. Choose your answers from the options given in the brackets.

1. This material is different that. (from / to / with)
2. You should explain this them. (to / at / with)
3. He has been absent Monday. (since / for / from)
4. I haven't been to the theatre a long time. (since / for / from)
5. He goes school by car. (to / at / on)
6. This is a comfortable house to live (on / at / in)
7. They are called different names. (by / with / for)
8. We should not spend money luxuries. (for / on / with)
9. I gave him a chair to sit (on / at / in)
10. The new term begins June 1st. (on / in / from)
11. He poured the tea the mug. (into / on / in)
12. He said that he was very pleased my work. (with / on / at)

Answers

1. This material is different from that.

2. You should explain this to them.
3. He has been absent since Monday.
4. I haven't been to the theatre for a long time.
5. He goes to school by car.
6. This is a comfortable house to live in.
7. They are called by different names.
8. We should not spend money on luxuries.
9. I gave him a chair to sit on.
10. The new term begins on June 1st.
11. He poured the tea into the mug.
12. He said that he was very pleased with my work.

Complete the exercise with convenient prepositions.

1. Nice meet you.
2. Don't be late school.
3. Are you the new student Portugal?
4. Are you a teacher this school?

5-6. Jessica is vacation. She is Italy now.

7. What is this called English?

8. Look the flowers.

9. Adam's birthday is July.

10. Don't run the classroom.

1. Nice **to** meet you.

2. Don't be late **for/to** school.

3. Are you the new student **from** Portugal?

4. Are you a teacher **at/in** this school?

5. She is **on** vacation. She is **in** Italy now.

6. What is this called **in** English?

7. Look **at** the flowers.

8. Adam's birthday is **in** july.

9. Don't run **in** the classroom.

1. Compare your answers your partner.
2. This key holder is very special me.
3. Apples and peaches are the same box.
4. Write me soon.
5. Have you got a piece paper?
6. What's the calculator for? It is my exam.
7. I'm tall black hair and brown eyes.
8. We have a house a big garden.
9. I come a big family.
10. Match the pictures the names.
11. Is your house the country?
12. Guess what I have my hand?
13. I have two color pens. What you?

Answer

1. Compare your answers **with** your partner.
2. This key holder is very special **for** me.
3. Apple and pears are **in** the same box.
4. Write **to** me soon.
5. Have you got a piece **of** paper?
6. What's the calculator for? It is **for** my exams.
7. I'm tall **with** black hair and brown eyes.
8. We have a house **with** a big garden.
9. I come **from** a big family.
10. Match the pictures **with** the names.
11. Is your house **in** the country?
12. Guess what I have **in** my hand?
13. I have two color pens. What **about** you?