

# PREPOSITIONS

## BHARAT SCHOOL OF BANKING - VLR

### What are prepositions?

A preposition as a rule links part of the sentence ("this is called the **modified part**") to a noun or noun phrase, which is called the **object** of the **preposition**.

It is a bag for rubbish

The preposition "for" shows the relationship between "bag" and "rubbish".)

The plane flew above the clouds.

(The preposition "above" shows the relationship between "clouds" and "flew".)

Examples of the modified part, preposition and the object

<b>Modified part</b>	<b>preposition</b>	<b>object</b>
a joke	about	the weather
snowed	after	Christmas
arrived	at	their house

How many prepositions are there in the English language?

There are about 60 prepositions in English, and these are the most common, in order of frequency.

**of, in, to, with, as, at, for, on, by, from.**

One of the peculiarities of English is called preposition stranding:

Which house did you arrive **at**?

I wonder **what** they're laughing **about**.

In these examples the preposition's object has been moved forward to the front of the clause. This is quite common and you should be able to recognise that **at** and **about** are prepositions, in spite of the position of their object.

### Preposition or is it a conjunction?

Prepositions link part of a sentence to a **noun** or **noun-phrase** (the preposition's object).

A letter came for **you**.

He wrote to **all their friends**.

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Some words can be used either as **prepositions** or as **conjunctions** which link part of a sentence to a finite clause.

She arrived before **supper**. (preposition)

She arrived **before** he gave us the message. (conjunction)

**What relationships can a preposition show?**

**They can be used when describing: -**

### **A place**

at, on, in, inside, within, by, near, behind, beyond, among, between, above, below, beneath, over, under to, towards, from, into, out (of), off, onto, across, along, down, past, round, through

### **Talking about time**

at, on, in, during, for, after, before, by, since, till, throughout, until

### **Reason**

because of, despite, for

### **similarity**

as, like, unlike, than

### **Addition to something**

with, without

**Means of** - by, with

### **Which preposition should be used?**

*Some prepositions have different meanings according to their context:*

a teller **of** jokes            of = produces

a book **of** recipes            of = contains

a book **of** Dad's            of = belongs to

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Some words demand particular prepositions, which are fairly arbitrary:

depend **on**                      cope **with**              tired **of**  
long **for**                          reason **for**              angry **at**  
live **on**                              marriage **to**              averse **to**  
battle **against** or **with**      trouble **with**              bored **with**

### Three Groups of Prepositions:

- Prepositions of place, position and direction.
- Prepositions of time.
- Prepositions for other relationships.

SOME COMMON PREPOSITIONS				
PLACE	POSITION	DIRECTION	TIME	OTHER
above across along among at away from behind below beside between	beyond by down from in in front of inside into near off	on opposite out outside over around through to towards under up	(of) after before at by for during from in	except as like about with without by for

Although prepositions are hard to generalize with separate rules, there is one simple rule about them. And, unlike most rules, this rule has no exceptions.

### Rule:

They are always followed by a "noun", never followed by a verb.

By "noun" we include:

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- **Noun** (dog, money, love)
- **Proper Noun (name)** (London, Mary)
- **Pronoun** (you, him, us)
- **Noun Group** (my first car)
- **Gerund** (swimming)

If we want to follow with a verb, we must use the "-ing" form which is really a gerund or verb in noun form.

Subject + Verb	Preposition	"noun"
The pen is	on	the table.
He lives	in	England.
Henry is looking	for	you.
The newspaper is	under	your green book.
Pascal is used	to	English people.
She isn't used	to	working.
We ate	before	coming.

### Prepositions of Time / Place at, in, on

- **At** for a PRECISE TIME
- **In** for MONTHS, YEARS, CENTURIES and LONG PERIODS
- **On** for DAYS and Dates

At	In	On
At 4:30 pm	in March	on Monday
At 3 o'clock	In Winter	On 6 March
At noon	In the summer	On 22 Dec.2012
At dinnertime	In 1990	On Christmas Day
At bedtime	In the next century	On your birthday
At the moment	In the future	On New Year's Eve

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Notice that use of the prepositions of time **in** and **on** in these common expressions:

- **In** the morning / **On** Monday morning
- **In** the mornings / **On** Sunday mornings
- **In** the afternoon(s) / **On** Sunday afternoons
- **In** the evening(s) / **On** Friday evenings

When we say **next, last, this, every** we do not use **at, in, on**.

I went to New York last June (**not in last June**)

She is coming back next Monday. (**not on next Monday**)

I go home every Easter . (**not at every Easter**)

We'll call you this afternoon. (**not in this afternoon**)

**Place: at, in, on**

In General:

- **At** for a POINT (dog, money, love)
- **In** for an ENCLOSED SPACE
- **On** for a SURFACE

<b>At</b>	<b>In</b>	<b>On</b>
At the bus stop	In London	On the wall
At the corner	In the garden	On the ceiling
At the entrance	In a box	On the floor
At the crossroads	In a building	On the carpet
At the top of the page	In a car	On a page

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Some other common uses of at / on / in

At	In	On
At home	In a car	On a bus
At work	In a taxi	On a train
At school	In a helicopter	On a plane
At university	In an elevator	On a bicycle
At the top	In the sky	On the radio
At the bottom	In the street	On the left
At the side	In a row	On a horse
At reception	In a boat	On a boat

Notice how we can use on a boat or in a boat depending on the type and the size of the particular boat/ship.

### More Prepositions

Prepositions	use	Example
during	while in	during the movie, during the flight, during my stay
for		for two days, for an hour
from / to		from Saturday to Monday, from 5 to 9
between	the time period from one to another	between 1986 and 2012, between Saturday and Monday
until/till	before a certain time	until/till Sunday, 5 o'clock
by	at the least	by Tuesday, by next month, by tomorrow
to	movement towards	to school, to work, to the

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		station
into	movement towards inside something	into the cinema, into the car
out of	to leave a place/a thing	out of the theater, out of the car
by	near/next to/beside	LINK stand by me, by the lake
through		through the tunnel, through the room
across	opposite ends	across the river, across the street
against		against the wall, against the door
into	movement towards inside something	into the cinema, into the car

### 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)

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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.