



Prepositions

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A **preposition** is a word that indicates the relationship between a noun , pronoun (or gerund) and the other words of a sentence. They explain relationships of sequence, space, and logic between the object of the sentence and the rest of the sentence. They help us understand order, time connections, positions, amount, measure, and value .Some examples of prepositions are words like "in," "at," "on," "of," and "to."

Simply put, prepositions are **connector words**. These connectors customarily tie a noun to an idea. An example of this is in the sentence, “I went to the store.” “To” connects the location of “store” to where the person went.

Other Example:

- I am going to Canada.
- Alex threw a stone into the pond.
- The present is inside the box.
- They have gone out of the town.
- He came by bus.(manner)
- My brother is taller than me by 5inches (**amount**)
- Can you please sell your bicycle to me at 50% of selling price (**rate**)

Often a preposition is a short word such as on, in, or to. This standard is not the only option; it can also be a longer word, multiple words, or a short phrase. “In front of” is an example of a short phrase. *She parked her bike in front of the school.(to be detailed in types of prepositions)*

Prepositions are common in the English language. There are about 150 used with the most common being: above, across, against, along, among, around, at, before, behind, below, beneath, beside, between, by, down, from, in, into, near, of, off, on, to, toward, under, upon, with and within.

There are a few further interesting **linguistic facts** about prepositions.

First, they are a *closed class of words* which means no new preposition gets added to the language. We use a fixed set of prepositions.

Second, prepositions do not have any other form. They cannot be plural, possessive, inflection, or anything else.

Third, most of the prepositions have many different contextual and natural uses. So, it is easy to be confused about it.

Fourth, sometimes a preposition works as nouns, adjectives, and adverbs.

Prepositions can be of one, two, three, or even more words. Prepositions with two or more words are called **phrasal prepositions**.

There are some commonly used phrasal prepositions:

because of, in case of, instead of, by way of, on behalf of, on account of, in care of, in spite of, on the side of, etc.

Most prepositions have several definitions, so the meaning changes quite a bit in different contexts. She shouted to me from the upstairs window' suggests that someone is calling someone to be heard. Changing prepositions will change the meaning of the sentence. That's how crucial the role of preposition is

Ending a sentence with a preposition is not a grammatical error.

Prepositions in English are highly idiomatic. Although there are some rules for usage, much preposition usage is dictated by fixed expressions. In these cases, it is best to memorize the phrase instead of the individual preposition.

Words that prepositions connect to other parts of the sentence :

Preposition +Noun : I gave a book to **Julia**.

Preposition +pronoun :I gave a book to **him**.

Preposition +gerund : I devote my time to **reading**.

The noun or the pronoun used with the preposition is called : « **the object of the preposition** ».

When you find a word that you think is a preposition,look for the object.Say the preposition and then say What ?If there is a what or when or where ,you have a preposition.

Look at the example

He jumped in . In what ?There is no answer ;therefore, in is not a preposition.

He jumped in the water.Now in is a preposition.

Types of Prepositions

Most of the prepositions have many uses. There are some prepositions which are common in every type of preposition as they function in a versatile way.

- **Simple Preposition**

These are among the most common type of prepositions.They generally consist of One word.Called also single or simple preposition.

Examples:

Most Popular Prepositions

| | | | | | |
|------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| and | but | at | to | on | in |
| for | of | up | off | from | out |
| with | during | down | below | beside | over |
| by | near | behind | inside | among | along |



Double Preposition

Two Simple Prepositions joining together to form one which connects the Noun(s) or Pronoun(s) to the rest the words in a sentence.

Examples:

- Are you **out of** your mind?
- I was allowed the **inside of** the temple.
- She's sandwiched **in between** two of her cousins.

Compound Preposition

Compound Prepositions are composed of prepositions as well as other words. Compound Prepositions are easily confused with Double Prepositions since they both require other prepositions or words to help with acting like a preposition.

Examples:

- **According to** my calculations, this color should work just fine.
- I started for home, **with a view to** celebrating Eid with my family.
- **On behalf of** our family, my father attended the family reunion.

Participle Preposition

Present Participles (-ing) and Past Participles (-ed and -en) that are used as Prepositions instead of Verbs, are called Participle Prepositions. These are participles as well as prepositions.

Examples:

Present Participle Prepositions

Assuming

Barring

Considering

During

Notwithstanding

Past Participles Prepositions

Respected

Given

Gone

Barred

Provided

Regarding

Taken

Participle Prepositions Used in Sentences:

- **Barred** from the entrance, he threw a fit.
- I was happy **given** the fact that I got great marks.
- **Assuming** the possibility of rain, she carried an umbrella.



Disguised Preposition

These prepositions are usually disguised as some other element in the English language. Often these prepositions are disguised as "a" and "o" in sentences.

Examples:

- I wake up at 5 **o**'clock. (Of the clock)
- Keep striding **a**head. (on the head)
- Pope went **a**shore. (onshore)
- Rimi visits the riverbank once **a** day. (in a day)

Detached Preposition

A preposition that has been detached and sent to the very end of the sentence is called Detached Preposition. These prepositions are detached from the interrogative or relative pronouns and adverbs but get detached for the sake of the integrity of sentences.

Examples:

- Where are you coming **from**?
- Is that the neighborhood you are headed **to**?
- I won't tolerate being screamed **at**.

Conjunctive Preposition

- This type of preposition uses a clause as the complement. Traditional grammar may categorize these as subordinating conjunctions instead of conjunctive prepositions. One common example of a conjunctive preposition is the word "**because.**"

Phrasal Prepositions

A Group of words with the force of single preposition is called phrase preposition .hence, they are a combination of two or more words that function as a preposition.

Examples : *Along with, apart from, because of, by means of, according to, in front of, contrary to, in spite of, on account of, in reference to, in addition to, in regard to, instead of, on top of, out of, with regard to,* etc. are the most common phrasal prepositions.

Example:

- They along with their children went to Atlanta.
- According to the new rules, you are not right.
- In spite of being a good player, he was not selected.
- I'm going out of the city.
- On behalf of the entire staff, he thanked them for their service.

a Prepositional Phrase Vs a Phrase preposition :

A **phrasal preposition** is not a prepositional phrase .

If a phrase starts with a preposition, then that phrase is a **prepositional phrase**. Prepositional phrases include the object of the preposition as well as all the words that modify that object. A prepositional phrase begins with the preposition and ends with its object. The object of a prepositional phrase can be a noun, pronoun, or gerund.

| Example | Explanation |
|-------------------------------|---|
| She is going down the stairs. | The preposition in this sentence is <i>down</i> , and <i>the stairs</i> is the object. <i>Down the stairs</i> is the prepositional phrase of this sentence. It is a group of words that has started with the preposition, <i>down</i> . |

-A **phrase preposition** is a type of prepositions that may be included in the prepositional phrase.

Use of Prepositions

Although there are hardly any rules as to when to use which preposition, most commonly prepositions define relationships between nouns and locate words, actions or ideas in a particular time or place. To remember the role of prepositions, notice that "position" appears in the word "preposition"!

Prepositions of Time

Prepositions of time show the relationship of time between the nouns to the other parts of a sentence.

On, at, in, from, to, for, since, ago, before, till/until, by, etc. are the most common prepositions of time.

Example:

- He started working at 10 AM.
- The company called meeting on 25 October.
- There is a holiday in December.
- He has been ill since Monday.

At :For exact time.

In : For months,years,centuries,and longer periods.

On :For days and dates.

Prepositions of Place and Direction

Prepositions of place show the relationship of place between the nouns to the other parts of a sentence.

On, at, in, by, from, to, towards, up, down, across, between, among, through, in front of, behind, above, over, under, below, etc. are the most common prepositions of place/direction.



Example:

- He is at home.
- He came from England.
- The police broke into the house.

Because there are so many prepositions, differentiating them helps to understand when and how to use them properly.

and how it relates to the preposition determines what type of preposition you are using.

Prepositions of Manner :

Prepositions of Manner is all about *how* a certain thing happened or is done. Sometimes even referred to as Prepositions of Method, these include words like *on, by, with, like, etc.*

The most commonly used **Prepositions of Manner** are “**by**” and “**with**”. We make use of **By** whenever we talk about actions and it is usually followed by the gerund (verb + -ing) or a noun.

We use **With** to talk about objects or tools that are used to achieve something and it is often followed by a noun. This will make more sense as you read further:

or example:

- He will die **by** the sword. (the sword will be the manner of his death)
- He faces danger **with** courage. (he is courageous when faced with danger)
- She left the room **in** tears. (she was crying when she left the room)

Answering the question of *how*:

- She lost 2 pounds **by** going vegan. (how did she lose 2 pounds? *by* going vegan)
- They went through the blizzard **with** courage. (how did they go through the blizzard? *with* courage)

2. Preposition of method- As if, like, on, as. These show the method with which something was done.

For example:

- She spoke **as if** she was the head of the team. (in the manner of the head)

- He acted **like** there was no other option. (in a manner that there was no other option)
- They traveled **on** foot. (they walked)
- I have worked **as** a teacher and counselor. (in the capacity of a teacher and counselor)

Try answering the question of *how* from the following examples by putting the right preposition:

- She went to South Bombay cab.
- Our mother sings a cuckoo bird.
- The skydivers were droppeda plane.
- He fell the ditch while walking home.
- The tourists arrived on the Havelock island a ferry.
- I reacted anger to his mistake.
- My sister speaks an old wise woman.



Preposition of Measure, Standard, Rate, Value

Preposition of Measure, Standard, Rate, Value: A preposition is a word placed before a noun or a pronoun to show in what relation the person or thing denoted by it stands in regard to something else.

- **By** – Most commonly used preposition for the purpose of measure, by is usually used to describe a measure, standard or value, sometimes in comparisons or just stating standard measurement. Let's see a few examples:
 1. Tina won the match against Whitney *by* 2 points.
 2. The area of this house is measured *by* the yard.
 3. The leopard is heavier than the jaguar *by* 10 pounds.
- **At** – Second most common preposition of this kind. *At* is usually used in the context of very precise measures. Let's see a few examples:
 1. She charges interest rate *at* 10 percent.
 2. It came in running *at* 110km/hour.
- **Of** – This preposition is usually used when the topic is abstract or measurement can't be in numbers. For example, a thing like bravery cannot be measured in numbers, but it's measurement or value can still be described. Let's see a few examples:
 1. Can you give me a piece *of* you cake?
 2. The soldiers were driven by the bravery *of* their spirits.

Prepositions of Possession:

Of: This preposition of possession is usually used for cities, countries, people, and possessive pronouns. *Of* is placed in a sentence to show possession of a place like a city, country or people or possessive pronouns like mine, yours, etc.

Usual form: *Of + noun/possessive pronoun(mine, yours, his, hers)*

The preposition *of* explains to whom the person or an object belongs to. In this case)Let's see a few examples:

- Canberra is the capital *of* Australia.
- This is the house *of* my uncle.
- He is a friend *of* ours.
- Taj Mahal is the finest monument *of* India.
- A friend *of* mine had a car accident yesterday night.

With: With is used with objects/materials/animals, accents, and physical characteristics. To fully understand this definition, read the examples below and come back again to this definition to see what we mean:



Usual form: *With* + *adjective/noun*

Let's see a few examples:

- I saw a girl *with* a pink purse.
- The boy *with* the dragon tattoo is sitting by the corner.
- The cat *with* black spots on her tail is my pet.

To: A preposition that shows possession, this is usually used in the expression “belong to“.

Usual form: *To* + *object pronouns(it, him, her)*

Let's see a few examples:

- This race course belongs *to* the Government.
- This garden belongs *to* my old aunt Mercy.

Preposition of Cause, Reason, Purpose

So what is a Preposition of Cause or Reason or Purpose or Motive or Destination or Target (all of these words snowballed into a broader term, **Cause**)? These are the prepositions that in general show the reason of a happening or being in a sentence. They generally answer the question of *why*. They basically show the cause of something happening or the purpose of an action. As the name suggests, these show the reason in a sentence.

For example:

- A train is used *for* travelling to different places. (Why is a train used? The purpose of a train is to travel. The preposition *for* is the preposition of cause in this sentence as it is showing the purpose of a train.)
- Virat Kohli received a Padma Shri *for* his exceptional performance in the field of cricket. (Why was Virat Kohli given Padma Shri? The award was given because of his exceptional performance. The reason of the Padma Shri award is being indicated by the preposition *for*.)

1. **To:** Usually used to show the purpose of the noun. This preposition joins a noun with a verb.

- We use coal in hydraulic plants *to* make electricity.
- She ran *to* deliver the mail before the bus left.
- My baby sister always goes to our father *to* ask for sweets.

2. **For:** This is also used to show the purpose of the noun. This preposition joins a noun with usually another noun or an adjective. If it joins the noun with a verb, usually the verb is in its gerund form.

- I need a fine profile *for* getting a job at the Wall street.
- Thank you *for* bringing us a casserole while our mom is out of town.
- My cat goes out in the garden *for* emptying her bowels.

3. **Because of/ on account of :** Joining a verb with the noun, this preposition is pretty straight up. It shows the reason of the happening.

- I need to stay home *because of* my naughty brother.
- The moon shines *because of* the sun.
- *On account of* the flight delay caused, the Prime minister will reach the office later than expected.

4. **Owing to:** Shows a cause

- Owing to the brilliant example set by Ellen Degeneres, she received a Medal of Freedom by President Obama.

Alternatively, you can use words like *due to, by courtesy of, by reason of, by virtue of, for the benefit of, in favour of, in honour of, in the light of, on behalf of, thanks to, or towards*. All these words are Prepositions of Cause and can do the job well. You know, a lot of them can pretty much be used substitutionally.

Preposition of Contrast and Concession(Conjunctive prepositions):

What does Contrast mean? Contrast is basically something strikingly different than something. It could be animate or inanimate. Colour black and white contrast each other. Qualities of good and bad contrast each other. We will see more of it in detail as we go further.

Concession are words like “though” or “although” that are used to show a different idea than suggested by the main part. For example:

- *Although* my best friend is very tall and athletic, she didn't make it in the basketball team.
- *Though* she is an animal lover, she eats non-veg food.
- *Although* my sister is very studious, she is not popular among teachers.

You see how ideas mentioned in the above sentences are quite contrasting. In the first example, a tall and athletic person should make it to the basketball team, she didn't. In the second one, you'd expect the person who loves animals to not eat them. In the third sentence, a studious one should be popular among teachers but she isn't. In the above sentence, the irony of the sentence is shown by the preposition of contrast and concession, though and although.

1. Though and Although

These words are commonly used alternatively. You must have seen above how these words are used to show contrasting ideas.

- *Although* my sister exercises daily, she has serious health problems.
- *Though* my sister exercises daily, she has serious health problems.

- Huge *though* it is, an elephant is a very peaceful animal.
- Small *although* an ant is, it is very hard working and persistent.

2. As and Though

Used after an adjective or adverb, the preposition *as* can be used in the place of *though*. Let's see how that works:

- Studious *though* he is, he is not a popular student among the teachers.
- Studious *as* he is, he is not a popular student among the teachers.
- Punctual *though* he is, he missed today's train for his office.
- Punctual *as* he is, he missed today's train to his office.



3. In spite of and despite

These prepositions of contrast and concession can be alternatively used.

- *In spite of* being so huge, an elephant is a very calm animal.
- *Despite* being so huge, an elephant is a very calm animal.
- *In spite of* attracting an income tax raid last year, the minister kept his scams going.
- *Despite* being so rich, they are not very kind to people.

4. Nonetheless, nevertheless and however

Well, these are not exactly words that connect clauses. They usually mark discourses between sentences. Let's see that with an example:

- This cat is quick at its feet; *however*, it can't catch a mouse.
- This cat is quick at its feet; *nonetheless*, it can't catch a mouse.
- I am usually not interested to attend weddings; *nevertheless*, I will be at my best friend's wedding.
- I am usually not interested to attend weddings; *however*, I will be at my best friend's wedding.
- I love to sleep all day long; *nonetheless*, I also like to play football.

5. All the same and At the same time

Just like the above category of Preposition of contrast and concession, these prepositions do not connect two clauses. They are used after a semicolon to show the contrast of ideas in the two clauses. Let's see an example:

- Elephants are huge; *all the same*, they are very calm creatures.
- Elephants are huge; *at the same time*, they are very calm creatures.
- Lions are the strongest; *all the same*, they keep the hunting for their lionesses.
- Lions are the strongest; *at the same time*, they keep the hunting for their lionesses.

Great work! Now that you have an idea, how about we do a few fun exercises:

Rewrite the following sentences using the preposition of contrast and concession:

- It was dark at night, but we decided to step out.
– Although _____.

- Although she is not very tall, she plays basketball remarkably well,
– In spite of _____.
- In spite of being in an unprivileged school, Sheila topped the university exams.
– Although _____.
- Even after losing her parents, Golu didn't lose hope.
– Despite _____.
- Despite being so talented, O.J Simpson didn't do well in life.
-Although _____.

Practice Makes Better!

1-Fill in the blanks with a suitable preposition.

1. The child responded to his mother's demands _____ throwing a tantrum.
2. I will wait _____ 6.30, but then I'm going home.
3. My best friend, John, is named _____ his grandfather.
4. My parents have been married _____ forty years.
5. It's been snowing _____ Christmas morning.
6. I get paid _____ the end of the month.
7. I'll be with you _____ a moment.
8. I've got a meeting _____ Monday morning.
9. He enjoyed the peace as he walked _____ the forest.
10. A grey mist hung _____ the field

2-Complete the sentences with one of the prepositions.

AT – IN - ON

1. _____ what time does the meeting start tomorrow?
2. I last saw him _____ his birthday.
3. Don't go out _____ noon. The sun is too strong.
4. You should start feeling better _____ a day or two.
5. We're going _____ holiday next month.
6. I should be finished with my report _____ about half an hour.
7. I am working _____ a new project _____ the moment.
8. He had been unemployed for some time but, _____ the end, he found a good job.
9. We were planning to start out _____ dawn.
10. Manchester won three games _____ a row and now they are _____ the top of the league table.
11. We often go skiing _____ spring because the days are longer.
12. Our whole family enjoyed a great meal _____ a fine little restaurant.
13. She doesn't look that old, but she must be _____ her late sixties.
14. The castle was built _____ the Middle Ages.
15. There's some kind of dark spot _____ the ceiling. What is it?
16. The boys left home _____ the age of 16.
17. The souvenir shops make a lot of money _____ a national holiday.
18. The manager has an appointment with a new client _____ 5 p.m.
19. She sleeps _____ the morning and works _____ night.
20. It's already 9 a.m. and he is still _____ bed.
21. I couldn't find that small village _____ any map.

22. My dad plans to return from his business trip _____ Saturday or Sunday evening.
23. My sister is _____ work right now so you can't reach her.
24. I saw the article _____ the back page of the newspaper.
25. The sailors were very tired. They had been _____ sea for over two months.