

PREPOSITIONS

Prepositions are words or groups of words that fall into two categories:

1. Prepositions are words or short phrases that identify the spatial (space), directional (direction something or someone is going), or temporal (time) relationships of one or more people or things to other people or things.
2. Prepositions can also describe abstract relationships as well as concrete ones.

1. Prepositions for Time, Place, and Introducing Objects:

Category	Preposition and Example Sentence
One point in time:	On is used with days: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I will see you on Monday. • The week begins on Sunday.
	At is used with noon, night, midnight, and with the time of day: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My plane leaves at noon. • The movie starts at 6 p.m.
	In is used with other parts of the day, with months, with years, with seasons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He likes to read in the afternoon. • The days are long in August. • The book was published in 1999. • The flowers will bloom in spring.
Extended Time:	To express extended time, English uses the following prepositions: since, for, by, from—to, from-until, during, (with)in <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She has been gone since yesterday. (<i>She left yesterday and has not returned.</i>) • I'm going to Paris for two weeks. (<i>I will spend two weeks there.</i>) • The movie showed from August to October. (<i>Beginning in August and ending in October.</i>) • The decorations were up from spring until fall. (<i>Beginning in spring and ending in fall.</i>) • I watch TV during the evening. (<i>For some period of time in the evening.</i>) • We must finish the project within a year. (<i>No longer than a year.</i>)
Place:	To express notions of place, English uses the following prepositions: In is used to talk about the point itself: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a wasp in the room.
	Inside is used to express something contained: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Put the present inside the box.
	On is used talk about the surface: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I left your keys on the table.
	At is used to talk about a general vicinity,. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She was waiting at the corner.
Higher Than a Point:	To express notions of an object being higher than a point, English uses the following prepositions: over, above . <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He threw the ball over the roof. • Hang that picture above the couch.

Lower Than a Point:	To express notions of an object being lower than a point, English uses the following prepositions: under, underneath, beneath, below. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The rabbit burrowed under the ground. • The child hid underneath the blanket. • We relaxed in the shade beneath the branches. • The valley is below sea-level.
Close to a Point:	To express notions of an object being close to a point, English uses the following prepositions: near, by, next to, between, among, opposite. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She lives near the school. • There is an ice cream shop by the store. • An oak tree grows next to my house • The house is between Elm Street and Maple Street. • I found my pen lying among the books. • The bathroom is opposite that room.

2. To Introduce Objects of Verbs:

Category	Preposition and Example Sentence
English uses the following prepositions to introduce objects of the following verbs.	At: glance, laugh, look, rejoice, smile, stare <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She took a quick glance at her reflection. (<i>exception with mirror: She took a quick glance in the mirror.</i>) • You didn't laugh at his joke. • I'm looking at the computer monitor. • We rejoiced at his safe rescue. • That pretty girl smiled at you. • Stop staring at me.
	Of: approve, consist, smell <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I don't approve of his speech. • My contribution to the article consists of many pages. • He came home smelling of alcohol.
	Of (or about): dream, think <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I dream of finishing college in four years. • Can you think of a number between one and ten? • I am thinking about this problem.
	For: call, hope, look, wait, watch, wish <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Did someone call for a taxi? • He hopes for a raise in salary next year. • I'm looking for my keys. • We'll wait for her here. • You go buy the tickets and I'll watch for the train. • If you wish for an "A" in this class, you must work hard.

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