



Prepositions

A **preposition** links nouns, pronouns, and phrases to other words in the sentence. A noun or noun phrase following the preposition is known as the **object of the preposition**. Prepositions can show temporal, spatial, or logical connections in a sentence.

Temporal Prepositions

At can define specific times.

Ex: Lunch is **at** noon.

Ex: The flight departs **at** 5:15 p.m.

On can describe specific days and dates.

Ex: Christmas is **on** December 25.

Ex: The new semester begins **on** Tuesday.

In can define a nonspecific time of a day, month, season, or year.

Ex: John went home **in** the afternoon.

Ex: Thanksgiving is an American holiday celebrated **in** November.

In can also define an allotted length of time.

Ex: The paper is due **in** two weeks.

Ex: The carpenter can finish the job **in** one hour.

Since can reference a specific date or occurrence.

Ex: Fred has been dead **since** March 12, 1864.

Ex: Margaret has been marooned **since** her ship sank.

For can be used to measure specific time.

Ex: Jane can hold her breath **for** two minutes.

Ex: The garbage can has been full **for** three days.

Spatial Prepositions

At can denote a specific address or place.

Ex: DBU is located **at** 3000 Mountain Creek Parkway.

Ex: Area rugs can be found **at** Home Depot.

On can designate names of streets.

Ex: Bob lives **on** Burger Street.

Ex: Harry saw Hermione driving **on** Davis Street this morning.

On can also refer to spatial placement.

Ex: Mom left her keys **on** the counter.

Ex: Todd put his shoes **on** his feet.

In can be used to refer to specific areas.

Ex: Santa Claus is rumored to vacation **in** Sweden.

Ex: There are a dozen fresh cookies **in** the cookie jar.

One way to think of many spatial prepositions is to imagine a bird with reference to a house. A bird may be **on**, **above**, **near**, **inside**, **outside**, or **under** a house.

Logical Prepositions

Prepositions like **concerning**, **regarding**, and **about** show connections between ideas in a sentence.

Ex: Tom learned many interesting facts **about** rabies when Darth Vader's feral cat attacked him.

Ex: **Regarding** the recent increase in the elephant population, the Galactic Empire declared "Free Elephant Tuesdays" **among** the storm troopers.

One way to think of many logical prepositions, which can be tricky, is to imagine the qualities of a book. A book is typically written **by** someone, **about** something, **with** characters, **during** a certain time period.

List of Common Prepositions

about	behind	during	off	to
above	below	except	on	toward
across	beneath	for	onto	under
after	beside	from	outside	underneath
against	between	in	over	until
along	beyond	inside	past	up
among	by	into	regarding	upon
around	concerning	like	since	with
at	despite	near	through	within
before	down	of	throughout	without

Note: some location words (like **home**, **downtown**, **uptown**, **inside**, **outside**, **downstairs**, and **upstairs**) do not always require a preposition.

Ex: Hannah went **inside** the igloo.

Ex: James likes to spend time **at home**, so he went **home** after the party.