

ENGLISH

Unit 7: Prepositions



English for Beginners with

THE INSPIRE ACADEMY



Prepositions

Prepositions are words that give you some information about the position, direction, etc. of an object or person. They hook the noun and pronoun onto the subject and always go before the noun.

Prepositions are of various types:

Prepositions - Time

English	Usage	Example
on	<ul style="list-style-type: none">days of the week	<ul style="list-style-type: none">on Monday
in	<ul style="list-style-type: none">months / seasonstime of dayyearafter a certain period of time (<i>when?</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">in August / in winterin the morningin 2006in an hour
at	<ul style="list-style-type: none">for <i>night</i>for <i>weekend</i>a certain point of time (<i>when?</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">at nightat the weekendat half past nine
since	<ul style="list-style-type: none">from a certain point of time (past till now)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">since 1980
for	<ul style="list-style-type: none">over a certain period of time (past till now)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">for 2 years
ago	<ul style="list-style-type: none">a certain time in the past	<ul style="list-style-type: none">2 years ago
before	<ul style="list-style-type: none">earlier than a certain point of time	<ul style="list-style-type: none">before 2004
to	<ul style="list-style-type: none">telling the time	<ul style="list-style-type: none">ten to six (5:50)
past	<ul style="list-style-type: none">telling the time	<ul style="list-style-type: none">ten past six (6:10)
to / till / until	<ul style="list-style-type: none">marking the beginning and end of a period of time	<ul style="list-style-type: none">from Monday to/till Friday
till / until	<ul style="list-style-type: none">in the sense of <i>how long something is going to last</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">He is on holiday until Friday.
by	<ul style="list-style-type: none">in the sense of <i>at the latest</i>up to a certain time	<ul style="list-style-type: none">I will be back by 6 o'clock.By 11 o'clock, I had read five pages.

Prepositions - Place (Position/Direction)

English	Usage	Example
in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> room, building, street, town, country book, paper etc. car, taxi picture, world 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> in the kitchen, in London in the book in the car, in a taxi in the picture, in the world
at	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> meaning <i>next to, by an object</i> for <i>table</i> for events place where you are to do something typical (watch a film, study, work) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> at the door, at the station at the table at a concert, at the party at the cinema, at school, at work
on	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> attached for a place with a river being on a surface for a certain side (left, right) for a floor in a house for public transport for <i>television, radio</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the picture on the wall London lies on the Thames. on the table on the left on the first floor on the bus, on a plane on TV, on the radio
by, next to, beside	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> left or right of somebody or something 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jane is standing by / next to / beside the car.
under	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> on the ground, lower than (or covered by) something else 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the bag is under the table
below	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> lower than something else but above ground 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the fish are below the surface
over	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> covered by something else meaning <i>more than</i> getting to the other side (also <i>across</i>) overcoming an obstacle 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> put a jacket over your shirt over 16 years of age walk over the bridge climb over the wall
above	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> higher than something else, but not directly over it 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a path above the lake
across	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> getting to the other side (also <i>over</i>) getting to the other side 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> walk across the bridge swim across the lake
through	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> something with limits on top, bottom and the sides 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> drive through the tunnel
to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> movement to person or building movement to a place or country for <i>bed</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> go to the cinema go to London / Ireland go to bed
into	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> enter a room / a building 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> go into the kitchen / the house
towards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> movement in the direction of something (but not directly to it) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> go 5 steps towards the house
onto	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> movement to the top of something 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> jump onto the table
from	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> in the sense of <i>where from</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a flower from the garden

Other important prepositions

English	Usage	Example
from	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ who gave it	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ a present from Jane
of	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ who/what does it belong to▪ what does it show	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ a page of the book▪ the picture of a palace
by	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ who made it	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ a book by Mark Twain
on	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ walking or riding on horseback▪ entering a public transport vehicle	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ on foot, on horseback▪ get on the bus
in	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ entering a car / Taxi	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ get in the car
off	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ leaving a public transport vehicle	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ get off the train
out of	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ leaving a car / Taxi	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ get out of the taxi
by	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ rise or fall of something▪ travelling (other than walking or horseriding)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ prices have risen by 10 percent▪ by car, by bus
at	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ for age	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ she learned Russian at 45
about	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ for topics, meaning <i>what about</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ we were talking about you

Useful Tip!

1. Prepositions are the easiest to understand when they are understood in the context of a sentence.

a. Examples:

- I will be going to the library. (to here is indicating direction)
- I am waiting at the bus stop. (at here is indicating place)

EXERCISE

Complete the exercise with the correct prepositions:



- 1) Look _____ this painting.
- 2) _____ the painting, you can see a little girl.
- 3) So, it is a painting _____ a girl.
- 4) A famous painter painted it. So it is a painting _____ a famous painter.
- 5) My grandma once owned the painting, but she gave it to me on my birthday. So it is a painting _____ my grandma.

EXERCISE

Complete the exercise with the correct prepositions:



- 1) She is sitting _____ the lake.
- 2) She has a red hat _____ her head.
- 3) There are many trees _____ the distance.
- 4) The trees are _____ the shore.
- 5) I wonder where she hiked _____?
- 6) There are many rocks _____ her.
- 7) She will dive _____ the water.

EXERCISE

Now write five sentences, using prepositions, for this picture:



EXERCISE

Complete the exercise with the correct prepositions:

- 1) Henry Ford was born _____ the 30th July 1863.
- 2) He made his first car, the Quadricycle, _____ June 1896.
- 3) _____ 1903, he founded the Ford Motor Company.
- 4) Modern mass production _____ cars was developed him 1913.
- 5) Ford's Model T could then be assembled _____ just 93 minutes.
- 6) _____ 1927, 15 million Model T cars had been manufactured the Ford Motor Company.
- 7) Henry Ford became one _____ the richest and most well-known people _____ the world.

AUDIO EXERCISE

For this audio exercise please listen to the speaker say each sentence. They will be using prepositions to indicate time and place.

Whenever they use a preposition please try to draw what they are saying on the next page

Make sure to focus and use what you learned in this unit to draw your responses!
Get creative!

Good luck!

Bonne chance!

AUDIO EXERCISE

You may use this space for the exercise: