

Prepositions



~ little linking words: at · on · in & more ~

Date: 11 / 07 / 26 ← circled = key info!



A word placed before a noun/pronoun to show its **relation** — tells **where, when, how or why**.

Kinds of Prepositions

Simple: at, in, on, to, by, of

Double: into, onto, upon, without

Compound: across, behind, below

Phrase: in front of, because of

① Prepositions of TIME ⌚

AT an **exact clock time** & festivals. at 5 o'clock · at noon · at Diwali

ON **days & dates**. on Monday · on 15th August · on my birthday

IN **longer periods** — months, years, seasons. in May · in 2026 · in winter

smallest → largest : AT (time) < ON (day) < IN (month/year)

See it in action

AT



at 7 p.m.

ON



on Sunday

IN



in June



Zoom trick → the bigger the time span, the 'bigger' the word: a clock-tick is **at**, a whole day is **on**, a season/year is **in**.

Time – more useful words

for → a length of time. for two hours · for a week

since → a starting point. since Monday · since 2019

by → not later than. Finish it by 6 p.m.

until / till → up to a time. Wait until Friday.

from ... to → start & end. open from 9 to 5

before / after → order in time. before lunch · after class

ago → back from now. two years ago (comes after the noun)

for + period · since + point

② Prepositions of PLACE

AT a specific point. at the door · at the bus stop · at home

ON touching a surface. book on the table · poster on the wall

IN inside an enclosed space. pen in the box · we live in Delhi

AT = point · ON = surface · IN = inside

A few more time words

during → within a period. during the film

within → inside a limit. within a month

throughout → all through. throughout the year

past / to → telling time. quarter to five



Same three words, two jobs! **at / on / in** work for time AND place – but the 'point → surface → inside' logic stays the same.

at home / school / work

in a car · **on** a bus

at the top / bottom

in the sky · **on** earth

Place – position words

above / over → higher than. lamp above the table · bird over the house

below / under → lower than. sign below the line · cat under the chair

between → two things. sit between Ravi & Sita

among → more than two. share among four boys

between = 2 · among = 3+

behind → at the back

near → close to

in front of → ahead

opposite → facing

beside / next to → at the side

inside / outside

③ Direction / Movement ↷

to · into · onto · towards · through · across · along · up · down · off · out of

She went to school. · He jumped into the pool. · Swim across the river. · Get off the bus.

Prepositional Phrases

groups of words acting as one preposition —

in spite of · because of · in front of · according to

on behalf of · by means of · instead of · in addition to

In spite of the rain, we played. · Because of traffic, we were late.

according to the plan

by means of hard work

instead of tea

in addition to this



Movement vs position: use **to / into / onto** when there is motion, and **at / in / on** when something just stays put.

Picture it – one box, many spots

lamp **above** box

ball **on** box

toy **in** box

cat **under** box

bag **beside** box

man **behind** box

④ Agent & Instrument

by → the doer (passive). The letter was written *by* Ram.

with → the tool. It was cut *with* a knife.

by = who · with = what tool

⑤ Fixed Prepositions

learn *by* heart — they never change!

Adjective +

good *at*
fond *of*
afraid *of*
senior *to*
married *to*
angry *with*
similar *to*
different *from*

Verb +

depend *on*
agree *with*
listen *to*
believe *in*
insist *on*
rely *on*
apologise *for*
consist *of*

Noun +

reason *for*
need *for*
cause *of*
solution *to*
reply *to*
faith *in*
answer *to*
increase *in*

Verb + preposition + -ing

a verb after a preposition always takes **-ing**

fond of reading · good at singing · tired of waiting · insist on going · look forward to meeting



Watch the meaning shift! *agree with* a person · *agree to* a plan · *angry with* a person · *angry at* a thing.

More -ing pairs to know

succeed *in* passing

afraid *of* falling

prevent him *from* going

capable *of* winning

keen *on* joining

thank you *for* helping

⚠ Common Errors ⚠

✗ wrong → ✓ right

~~discuss about it~~ → **discuss it**

~~reach to the station~~ → **reach the station**

~~good in maths~~ → **good at maths**

~~senior than me~~ → **senior to me**

~~absent from two days~~ → **absent for two days**

~~since two hours~~ → **for two hours**

~~get down the bus~~ → **get off the bus**

~~die from hunger~~ → **die of hunger**

~~request for help~~ → **request help**

~~marry with her~~ → **marry her**

Quick Revision Tips 💡

✓ Time: **at** a time · **on** a day · **in** a month/year.

✓ Place: **at** a point · **on** a surface · **in** a space.

✓ **for** + length · **since** + starting point · **between** 2 · **among** 3+.

✓ Fixed pairs never change — **memorise them.**

Worked Example 📄

“She has been ill _____ Monday.”

Step 1 — ‘Monday’ is a **starting point**, not a length.

Step 2 — starting point → use **since**, not **for**.

Answer → She has been ill **since** Monday. ✓



Memory hooks → **si-N-ce** = poi-N-t · **f-O-r** = period · **betw-EE-n** = two · **am-O-ng** = many.

~~comprising of~~ → **comprising**

~~return back~~ → **return**

~~order for~~ → **order**

~~cope up with~~ → **cope with**

Practice – Fill the Blank

1. She is good ____ singing.
2. We have lived here ____ 2018.
3. He waited ____ two hours.
4. Divide it ____ the three of them.
5. The pen is ____ the drawer.
6. Meet me ____ 6 o'clock.
7. The bridge goes ____ the river.
8. He is senior ____ me.
9. The child hid ____ the curtain.
10. He has been ill ____ Monday.
11. Cut the rope ____ a knife.
12. In spite ____ the delay, we won.

Answer Key

1→ at 2→ since 3→ for 4→ among 5→ in 6→ at 7→ across / over 8→ to
9→ behind 10→ since 11→ with 12→ of

Practice B – Fill the Blank

1. He is afraid ____ dogs.
2. I agree ____ your idea. (a plan)
3. Put the cup ____ the table.
4. We travelled ____ the tunnel.
5. She is fond ____ music.
6. He was born ____ 2001.
7. Sit ____ Ravi and me. (two)
8. Finish it ____ Friday. (deadline)
9. He jumped ____ the pool.
10. The shop opens ____ 9 to 6.
11. Congratulate her ____ winning.
12. I depend ____ my notes.

Answer Key – B

1→ of 2→ to 3→ on 4→ through 5→ of 6→ in 7→ between 8→ by 9→
into 10→ from 11→ on 12→ on

☆ Little words, big marks – nail them! ☆



Exam habit → after any preposition, read the noun that follows: is it a **point**, **surface**, **space**, **period** or a **fixed pair**? That decides the word.