

# PREPOSITION

A preposition links nouns, pronouns and phrases to other words in a sentence. The word or phrase that the preposition introduces is called the object of the preposition. A preposition usually indicates the temporal, spatial or logical relationship of its object to the rest of the sentence as in the following examples:

The doll is on the floor.

The carpet is beneath the table.

The walking stick is kept leaning against the wall.

The shop beside the road.

Hold the umbrella over your head.

You cannot leave the hall during the show.

In each of the preceding sentences, a preposition locates the noun “book” in space or in time.

A prepositional phrase is made up of the preposition, its object and any associated adjectives or adverbs. A prepositional phrase can function as a noun, an adjective, or an adverb.

Some of the most common prepositions:

About	above	across	after
Against	along	among	around
At	before	behind	below
Beneath	beside	between	beyond
But	by	despite	down

During	except	for	from
In	inside	into	like
Near	of	off	on
Onto	out	outside	over
Past	since	through	throughout
Till	to	toward	under
Underneath	until	up	upon
With	within	without	

Each of the highlighted words in the following sentences is a preposition:

You must speak without fear.

In this sentence, the preposition without introduces the noun fear. The prepositional phrase without fear functions as an adverb describing the location.

We drove along the canal.

The preposition along introduces the noun phrase the canal and the prepositional phrase along the canal acts as an adverb, describing the location.

Prem is hiding under the bed.

Here the preposition under introduces the prepositional phrase under the bed, which acts as an adverb modifying the compound verb is hiding.

I'm looking for the book I left somewhere in his room.

Similarly in this sentence, the preposition in introduces a prepositional phrase in the room, which acts as an adverb describing the location of the book.

Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate prepositions chosen from those given in brackets.

**Examples:**

She made a speech-----the freedom struggle. (about, around)

She made a speech about the freedom struggle.

D comes-----C and E in the alphabet. (between, beyond)

D comes between C and E in the alphabet.

1. She travels from Ghaziabad -----Haryana (at, to)
2. We turned the back-----the book. (of, on)
3. She went to London -----Dubai. (versus, via)
4. Their gallery is open -----Monday to Friday. (for, from)
5. He looks -----his brother. (despite, like)
6. He opened the box-----a screwdriver. (at, with)
7. Nocturnal animals usually sleep-----the day. (during, underneath)
8. The squirrel ran-----the wall. (along, among)

Paying attention to the uses of the prepositions among, at, beside, besides, between, for, in, on and since, fill in the blanks with the correct prepositions chosen from those given in brackets.

**Examples:**

They live -----1003, Parliament Street. (at, on)

They live at 1003, Parliament Street.

The meeting will take place -----Tuesday. (at, on)

The meeting will take place on Tuesday.

We have been waiting -----several days. (for, since)

We have been waiting for several days.

She has been working-----early morning. (for, since)

She has been working since early morning.

1. He lives -----118, Peddar Road. (at, on)
2. He and his friend will divide the money themselves. (among, between)
3. I have known that lady-----three years. (for since)
4. Many foods-----milk contain calcium. (beside, besides)
5. He has been gone-----Friday. (for, since)
6. She is leaving-----five minutes. (at, in)
7. The play begins-----seven thirty. (at, on)
8. Columbus crossed the Atlantic-----1492. (at, in)

Fill in the blanks with the missing preposition.

### **Examples:**

Please leave-----once.

Please leave at once.

I brought the umbrella-----mistake.

I brought the umbrella by mistake.

1. Since the restaurant is usually crowded, it is advisable to make reservations -  
-----advance.
2. We do not own a car hence we go everywhere-----foot.
3. We made out the report-----triplicate.
4. Citrus fruits,-----example oranges and lemons, require a long  
growing season.
5. The operation seemed to go on forever, but-----last it was over.
6. She always seems to be-----a hurry.
7. He is not a rude man, I advise you to take what he says-----a pinch of  
salt.
8. I went to the library, but the video I wanted was out -----hire.
9. To save money, we usually buy flour and rive-----bulk.
10. Little-----little, the clouds dispersed and the sun became brighter.

For each underlined word or phrase, substitute an idiom containing the preposition indicated in brackets.

### **Examples:**

She came punctually. (on)

She came on time.

His lecture was brief and relevant. (to)

His lecture was brief and to the point.

1. Incidentally, I met your brother today. (by)

2. What do you do as a profession? (for)
3. The guard left the door opens deliberately. (on)
4. There is a great deal to be won or lost. (at)
5. The ship left the harbor and was moving. (under)
6. Her paintings are being exhibited at the library. (on)
7. Occasionally we meet for coffee. (in)
8. There are no new stocks in the shop now. (at)
9. I want to speak to you not in front of other people. (in)
10. I see her occasionally. (from)

Paying attention to the nouns which are usually followed by certain prepositions, fill in the blanks with the correct prepositions chosen from the pairs given in brackets.

### Examples:

Do you have any objection-----my plan? (on, to)

Do you have any objection to my plan?

She is dedicated-----her job. (of toward)

She is dedicated toward her job.

1. Who else has access-----the computer files? (of, to)
2. I have no recollection-----the incident. (of ,on)
3. I have confidence-----his ability. (for, in)
4. Pay close attention-----what I am saying. (for, to)
5. She takes an active interest-----social welfare. (in, of)
6. Do you have any proof-----that? (of, to)
7. There is a lack-----information on this subject. (for, of)

8. I received no reply-----my letter. (on, to)
9. They are constantly finding fault-----other people. (of, with)
10. People often make fun-----what they do not understand. (of, to)

Paying attention to the verbs which are usually followed by certain prepositions, fill in the blanks with the correct prepositions chosen from the pairs given in brackets.

### Examples:

He likes listening-----music. (on, to)

He likes listening to music.

They exchanged -----one another. (of, with)

They exchanged with one another.

1. Heat and light radiate-----the sun. (from, of)
2. She loves to quote-----Shakespeare's plays. (from, to)
3. The students protested-----the high student fees. (against, from)
4. A balanced meal consists-----vitamins, minerals, proteins and carbohydrates. (of, with)
5. She likes to participate -----extracurricular activities. (in, with)
6. He paid-----the meal. (for, on)
7. He subscribes-----four magazines. (of, to)
8. The dog barked-----the mailman. (at, to)
9. Do you concur-----my conclusions? (for, with)
10. The two children stared-----each other. (at, to)