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Module : English

Session : Grammar

Lesson : Prepositions

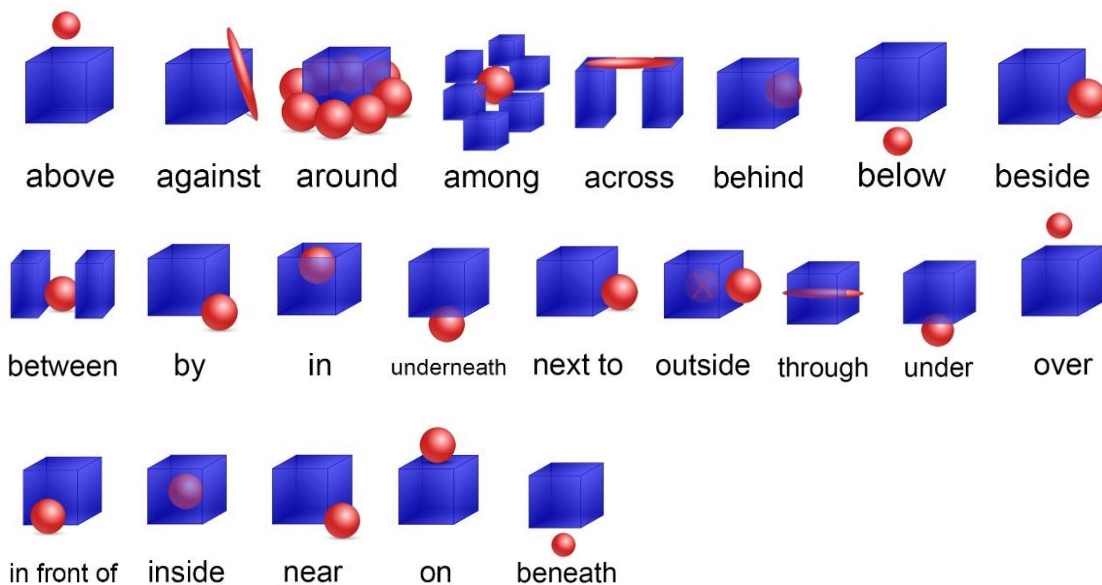
### 1. What is a Proposition ?

A preposition is a word that shows the relationship between two things. They are short words (at, in, on) or phrases that consist of more than one word. They are used to show position, location, direction, and time in English.

### 2. Different types of prepositions

#### A. Position prepositions

The following prepositions are used to indicate position.



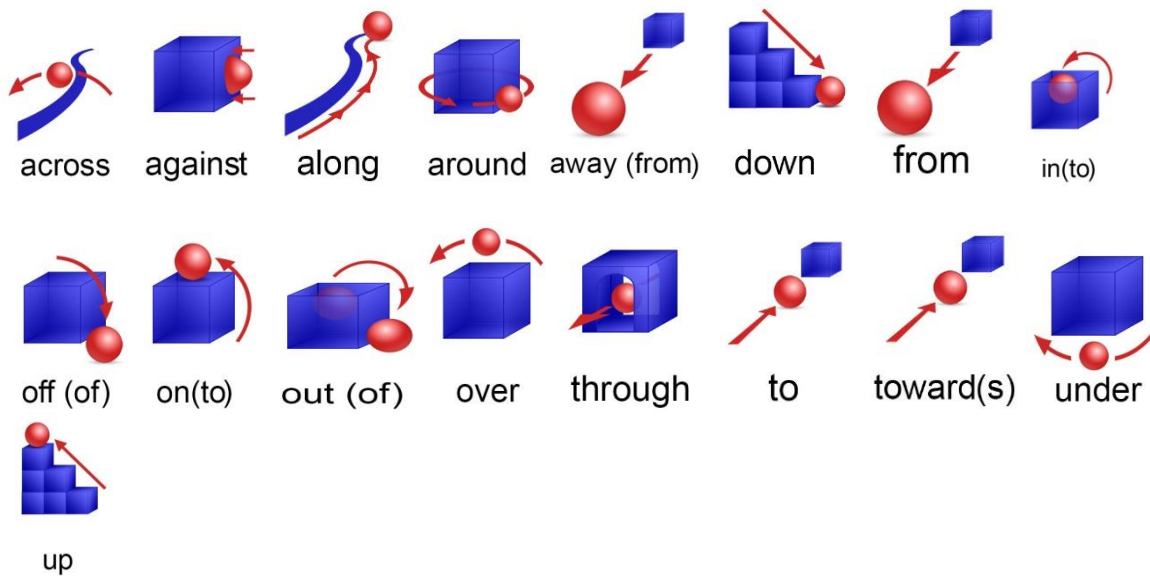
\*Position Preposition Examples :

Preposition	Example Sentence
above	The red ball is <b>above</b> the blue box.
across	The red bar is lying <b>across</b> the blue boxes.
against	The red bar is lying <b>against</b> the blue box.

among	The red ball is <b>among</b> the blue boxes.
around	The red balls are <b>around</b> the blue box.
behind	The red ball is <b>behind</b> the blue box.
below	The red ball is <b>below</b> the blue box.
beneath	The red ball is <b>beneath</b> the blue box.
beside	The red ball is <b>beside</b> the blue box.
between	The red ball is <b>between</b> the blue boxes.
by	The red ball is <b>by</b> the blue box.
in	The red ball is <b>in</b> the blue box.
in front of	The red ball is <b>in front of</b> the blue box.
inside	The red ball is <b>inside</b> the blue box.
near	The red ball is <b>near</b> the blue box.
next to	The red ball is <b>next to</b> the blue box.
on	The red ball is <b>on</b> the blue box.
outside	The red ball is <b>outside</b> the blue box.
over	The red ball is <b>over</b> the blue box.
through	The red bar is running <b>through</b> the blue box.
under	The red ball is <b>under</b> the blue box.
underneath	The red ball is <b>underneath</b> the blue box.

## B. Direction prepositions

The following prepositions are used to indicate direction



\*Direction Preposition Examples:

Preposition	Example Sentence
across	The red ball bounced <b>across</b> the blue line
against	The red ball rolled <b>against</b> the blue box.
along	The red ball is rolling <b>along</b> the blue line.
around	The red ball is rolling <b>around</b> the blue box.
away from	The red ball is rolling <b>away from</b> the blue box.
down	The red ball is rolling <b>down</b> the blue stairs.
from	The red ball is coming <b>from</b> the blue box.
into	The red ball is bouncing <b>into</b> the blue box.
off of	The red ball is rolling <b>off of</b> the blue box.

onto	The red ball is bouncing <b>onto</b> the blue box.
out of	The red ball is bouncing <b>out of</b> the blue box.
over	The red ball is bouncing <b>over</b> the blue box.
through	The red ball is rolling <b>through</b> the hole in the blue box.
to	The red ball is rolling <b>to</b> the blue box.
toward(s)	The red ball is rolling <b>towards</b> the blue box.
under	The red ball is rolling <b>under</b> the blue box.
up	The red ball is rolling <b>up</b> the blue stairs.

### Using *From*, *To* and *Of* with Direction Prepositions

In the pictures above, you will notice that some prepositions are followed by an optional *from*, *to* or *of*. If you want to use these prepositions with a location object, you have to use the optional *from*, *to* or *of*. If there is no location object, you do not need to use the optional *from*, *to* or *of*.

Examples:

- Sherry walked **into** the house. *has object "the house"*
- Sherry walked **in**. *no object*
- Katie jumped **out of** the boat. *has object "boat"*
- Katie jumped **out**. *no object*
- He walked **away**. *no object*
- He walked **away from** me. *has object "me"*

### C. Location prepositions

\* **AT** : specific locations, addresses, companies, stores, events, parties, desks, counters

\* **IN** : enclosed spaces, buildings, organizations, regions, water, deserts, mountain ranges, forests, cities, countries, continents, the sky, space, cars, groups of people, little boats..

\* **ON** : surfaces, roads, corners, shores, single mountains, islands, planets, public transportation, bikes, big boats, stairs, balconies, walkways ..

\***ABOARD** : boats, planes, trains

More specific examples :

At	In	On
at work	in class	on the floor
at home	in college	on the ground
at the bank	in the hospital	on the freeway
at the beach	in my car	on the lawn
at 123 Main Street	in a taxi	on the subway
at IKEA	in a canoe	on the Titanic
at the party	in the sky	on the plane
at the bus stop	in the universe	on Mount Everest
at the ticket counter	in the army	on the stairs
at my desk	in the Rocky Mountains	on Mars
at the dinner table	in the Pacific	on the shore
at the exit	in the crowd	on the sidewalk
at the supermarket	in the theater	on the balcony
at the wedding	in China	on Catalina Island
at the post office	in Africa	on his motorcycle

## D. Time Prepositions

### 1. Basic time prepositions

The prepositions *at*, *in* and *on* are associated with specific time categories, which must be memorized. For example, we say "*at* 5 PM *on* Sunday *in* June" because English speakers use *at* with clock times, *on* with days, and *in* with months.

Preposition	Time Categories
<b>at</b>	clock times, exact times of day, night, holiday periods
<b>in</b>	months, years, morning/afternoon/evening, seasons, centuries, eras
<b>on</b>	days, dates, holidays, weekends, days+morning/afternoon/evening

\*Further real-life examples of *at*, *in* and *on*:

At	In	On
at 3:45 PM	in June	on Tuesday
at noon	in August	on September 8, 1969
at midnight	in the winter	on Christmas Eve
at sunrise	in the summer	on the day we met

at sunset	in the morning	on the weekend
at dawn	in the afternoon	on weekends
at Christmastime	in the Renaissance	on my birthday
at the close of day	in the '70s	on Thanksgiving
at night	in the 14th century	on Friday mornings
at 6 o'clock	in 1922	on the first day of the month

## 2. Functional Time Prepositions

The following time prepositions have a more functional usage and show how two or more events relate to each other in time. For example, *Lisa jogs before dinner* means Lisa jogs first and eats dinner second. These time prepositions are best learned through conversation.

Preposition	Use	Examples
<b>before</b>	earlier than	<b>Before</b> work, Tony eats breakfast.
<b>from... to</b>	start time... end time	Tony works <b>from</b> 9 AM <b>to</b> 5 PM.
<b>from... until/till</b>	start time... end time	Tony works <b>from</b> 9 AM <b>until</b> 5 PM.
<b>for</b>	amount of time	Tony works <b>for</b> eight hours.
<b>during</b>	within a time	<b>During</b> the day, Tony eats a small snack and lunch.
<b>by</b>	before a point of time	<b>By</b> 5 PM, Tony is quite hungry again.
<b>after</b>	later than	<b>After</b> work, Tony goes home and eats dinner.
<b>in</b>	within an amount of time	Tony eats four times <b>in</b> twelve hours.