



Prepositions

Prepositions are words that link a noun, pronoun, or noun phrase to some other part of the sentence. Prepositions can be tricky for English learners. There is no definite rule or formula for choosing a preposition.

There are several prepositions in English grammar, which are 'on', 'at', 'in', 'of', 'for', 'by', 'with', 'over' and 'to'.

Preposition - On

Example Sentences	How to use the preposition
<ul style="list-style-type: none">The keys were on the table.The paper is on my desk.	Used to express a surface of something
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Her birthday is on July 19.The paper is on my desk.	Used to specify days and dates
<ul style="list-style-type: none">He is on the phone right now.The paper is on my desk.	Used to indicate a device or machine, such as a phone or computer
<ul style="list-style-type: none">He kissed her on the forehead.The paper is on my desk.	Used to indicate a part of the body
<ul style="list-style-type: none">The building is on fire.The shirts are on sale.	Used to indicate the state of something



Preposition - At

Example Sentences	How to use the preposition
<ul style="list-style-type: none">The meeting is at 11:00 am.The bus will come at 5:30 pm.	Used to point out a specific time
<ul style="list-style-type: none">There is a concert at the park.We saw a baseball game at the stadium.	Used to indicate a place
<ul style="list-style-type: none">I am very bad at dancing.He laughed at my acting.	Used to indicate an activity

Preposition - In

Example Sentences	How to use the preposition
<ul style="list-style-type: none">We will visit them in the summer.The new semester starts in March.	Used for unspecific times during a day, month, season, year
<ul style="list-style-type: none">I bought these shoes in Italy.I am staying in a hotel.	Used to indicate a location or place
<ul style="list-style-type: none">I bought a sweater in red.The students sat in a circle.	Used to indicate a shape, color, or size
<ul style="list-style-type: none">I believe in God.I am not interested in cooking.	Used to indicate a belief, opinion, interest, or feeling



Preposition - Of

Example Sentences	How to use the preposition
<ul style="list-style-type: none">The highlight of the show is at the end.The first page of the book is missing.	Used for belonging to, relating to, or connected with
<ul style="list-style-type: none">This is a picture of my family.I got married in the spring of 2000.	Used to indicate reference
<ul style="list-style-type: none">I drank three cups of milk.I got 8 hours of sleep last night.	Used to indicate an amount or number

Preposition - To

Example Sentences	How to use the preposition
<ul style="list-style-type: none">She was sent to the principal's office.I emailed the document to my boss.She was sent to the principal's office.	Used to indicate the place, person, or thing that someone or something moves toward, or the direction of something
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Gas prices rose up to \$5.The snow was piled up to the roof.	Used to indicate a limit or an ending point
<ul style="list-style-type: none">The answers to the test are on the next page.My answer to your question is in this envelope.	Used to indicate relationship



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I work nine to six, Monday to Friday. It is now 10 to five or 4:50. 	Used to indicate a time or a period
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Preposition - For

Example Sentences	How to use the preposition
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These gifts are for your children. This room is for conferences and meetings. 	Used to indicate the use of something
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I am so happy for you. He is retiring for medical reasons. 	Used to mean because of
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I've lived in this house for 12 years. I have enough food for a week. 	Used to indicate time or duration

Preposition - With

Example Sentences	How to use the preposition
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I ordered a sandwich with a drink. I am working with a lawyer. 	Used to indicate being together or being involved
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are you the one with the sports car? I met a guy with green eyes. 	Used to indicate "having"
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> He cut my hair with his scissors. She took pictures with a digital camera. 	Used to indicate "using"
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I am emailing you with my sincere apology. He came to the front 	Used to indicate feeling



stage with confidence.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do you agree with me? Are you with me on this? 	Used to indicate agreement or understanding

Preposition - Over

Example Sentences	How to use the preposition
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> They sent over the wrong item. Please come over to my house. 	Used to indicate movement from one place to another
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> He was pushed over the edge. The car fell over the cliff. 	Used to indicate movement downward
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The phone rang for over a minute. The actual charge was over the estimated cost. 	Used to indicate more than an expected number or amount
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I've lived here over ten years It takes over an hour to drive there. 	Used to indicate a period of time

Preposition - By

Example Sentences	How to use the preposition
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> He was standing by me. The post office is by the bank. 	Used to indicate proximity or location
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The refrigerator was fixed by a repairman. Donuts were brought in by our boss. 	Used to indicate the person that does something
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> She passed the test by studying 	Used to indicate an action with a



all night. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I explained my reasons by writing her a letter. 	particular purpose
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please respond by email. They came by boat. 	Used to indicate a mean or method

Prepositional Phrases

Prepositional phrases consist of two basic parts: the preposition and the object. The object can be a noun, pronoun, or gerund. In prepositional phrases, prepositions are almost always followed by an object.

Preposition	Object	Prepositional Phrase
On	The desk	On the desk
On	The phone	On the phone
At	The park	At the park
At	The stadium	At the stadium
In	The morning	In the morning
In	The car	In the car
Of	The book	Of the book
Of	My family	Of my family
To	The theater	To the theater
To	The roof	To the roof
For	Your birthday	For your birthday
For	Many years	For many years
With	French fries	With French fries
With	An accent	With an accent
Over	The moon	Over the moon



Over	An hour	Over an hour
By	The bank	By the bank
By	The mailman	By the mailman

Prepositional Phrases as Adjectives

Like basic adjectives, adjective prepositional phrases modify or describe a noun. They answer the questions like "which one?" and "what kind?"; however, unlike basic adjectives which go before the noun, adjective prepositional phrases come after the noun.

Noun	Adjective Prepositional Phrase
Snow	On the mountains
Girl	At the water fountain
Man	In the tuxedo
Lead singer	Of the band
Dress	With blue polka dots
Field	Over the hill
House	By the beach

- The **snow on the mountains** is a beautiful sight.
- The **girl at the water fountain** is taking too long.
- The **man in the tuxedo** is very handsome.
- The **lead singer of the band** writes all of the songs.
- The **dress with blue polka dots** is my favorite.
- The **field over the hill** is empty.
- The **house by the beach** belongs to my grandparents.

Prepositional Phrases as Adverbs

Adverb prepositional phrases modify or describe an adverb, adjective, or verb. They answer questions like "why?", "when?", "where?", and "how?".



Adverb prepositional phrases come after the adverb, adjective or verb.

Adverb, Adjective, or Verb	Adverb Prepositional Phrase
simmering	On the stovetop
left	At the park
run quickly	In high heels
drove	With her new car
flew	Over the neighborhood
located	By the freeway exit

- The soup is simmering **on the stovetop**.
- The bikes were left **at the park**.
- She can't run quickly **in high heels**.
- She drove to school **with her new car**.
- The plane flew **over the neighborhood**.
- His stolen car was located **by the freeway exit**.

Practice Questions

Quiz 1: Directions: Fill in the blanks with either "in" "on" or "at"

- 1) We are getting married _____ France.
- 2) Our school play is _____ my birthday.
- 3) The reception is _____ 5:00 pm.
- 4) I exercise _____ the gym.
- 5) She is good _____ playing chess.
- 6) I live _____ the top floor.
- 7) We waited for them _____ the lobby.



- 8) He keeps looking _____ me.
- 9) She gave me a tap _____ my shoulder.

Quiz 2: Directions: Fill in the blanks with either "at" "in" or "on"

- 1) My dog is sleeping _____ my bed.
- 2) Her birthday is _____ May.
- 3) His birthday is _____ May 21st.
- 4) Let's meet _____ 11 o'clock.
- 5) There is a concert _____ the stadium.
- 6) I forget my phone _____ work.
- 7) My son likes to sit _____ the floor.
- 8) My wife is waiting _____ the car.
- 9) She was born _____ 1982.

Quiz 1 Answers

- 1) a. in
- 2) b. on
- 3) c. at
- 4) c. at
- 5) c. at
- 6) b. on
- 7) a. in
- 8) c. at
- 9) b. on



Quiz 2 Answers

- 1) on
- 2) in
- 3) on
- 4) at
- 5) at
- 6) at
- 7) on
- 8) in
- 9) in

Quiz 3: Directions: Fill in the blanks with either "for" "of" or "to"

- 1) That closet is _____ toys.
- 2) He got a perfect score _____ 5 on his exam.
- 3) The package was sent _____ the wrong city.
- 4) May I have a glass _____ water, please?
- 5) The memo was emailed _____ all employees.
- 6) She got angry _____ no reason.
- 7) Do you have enough food _____ everyone?
- 8) He has a picture _____ his family on his desk.
- 9) Please don't talk _____ me right now.

Quiz 4: Directions: Fill in the blanks with either "for" "of" or "to"

- 1) The best part _____ the show was the ending.
- 2) I will go _____ work after I eat breakfast.



- 3) It is too cold _____ swimming.
- 4) This gift is _____ you.
- 5) This is a picture _____ my girlfriend.
- 6) I have lived here _____ more than 10 years.
- 7) The store is open from 9 in the morning _____ 6 at night.
- 8) I bought three bottles _____ water.
- 9) She sent the letter _____ the wrong address.

Quiz 3 Answers

- 1) a. for
- 2) b. of
- 3) c. to
- 4) b. of
- 5) b. of
- 6) a. for
- 7) a. for
- 8) b. of
- 9) c. to

Quiz 4 Answers

- 1) of
- 2) to
- 3) for
- 4) for
- 5) of
- 6) for
- 7) to
- 8) of
- 9) to



Quiz 5: Directions: Fill in the blanks with either "over" "by" or "with"

- 1) The appointment lasted _____ an hour.
- 2) The house is _____ the school.
- 3) I am studying _____ a tutor.
- 4) I want to sit _____ the window.
- 5) He went _____ the limit on his credit card.
- 6) Is anyone _____ me on this issue?
- 7) He is living _____ two friends.
- 8) He hit the baseball _____ the roof.
- 9) The guests arrived _____ train.

Quiz 6: Directions: Fill in the blanks with either "by" "over" or "with"

- 1) I want to buy a car _____ four doors.
- 2) She lives _____ the subway station.
- 3) The book was written _____ my aunt.
- 4) I help my grandmother _____ cleaning her house every weekend.
- 5) She ordered a hamburger _____ no pickles.
- 6) The young boy drew on the wall _____ a marker.
- 7) They talked together for _____ three hours.
- 8) Let's go _____ bus.



9) She has worked here _____ 15 years.

Quiz 5 Answers

- 1) a. over
- 2) b. by
- 3) c. with
- 4) b. by
- 5) a. over
- 6) c. with
- 7) c. with
- 8) a. over
- 9) b. by

Quiz 6 Answers

- 1) with
- 2) by
- 3) by
- 4) by
- 5) with
- 6) with
- 7) over
- 8) by
- 9) over

Quiz 7: Directions: Choose the prepositional phrase for each sentence

- 1) I put dishes on the table.
 - a. I put dishes
 - b. on the table
 - c. the table

- 2) There is a party at the clubhouse.
 - a. There is a party
 - b. the clubhouse



c. at the clubhouse

3) The students stood in a circle.

- a. stood in a circle
- b. in a circle
- c. The students stood

4) The first page of the book describes the author's profile.

- a. of the book
- b. The first page
- c. the author's profile

5) The package was mailed to his boss yesterday.

- a. his boss yesterday
- b. The package was mailed
- c. to his boss

6) She has been studying hard for the final exam.

- a. She has been studying
- b. for the final exam
- c. studying hard

7) I ordered a sandwich with a drink.

- a. with a drink
- b. ordered a sandwich
- c. a sandwich

8) The cost of the repairs is over repairman's estimate.

- a. The cost
- b. the repairs
- c. over the repairman's estimate

9) The flowers were delivered by a delivery man.

- a. by a delivery man
- b. The flowers were delivered
- c. were delivered by



Quiz 8: Directions: Choose the correct answer.

1) She is talking _____.

- a. on the phone
- b. with a phone
- c. for a phone

2) John is standing _____.

- a. on the door
- b. by the door
- c. for the door

3) I bought clothes _____.

- a. of my money
- b. by my money
- c. with my money

4) The water came up _____.

- a. to the house
- b. of the house
- c. for the house

5) I am staying _____.

- a. on a hotel
- b. in a hotel
- c. of a hotel

6) I will see you _____.

- a. for the party
- b. at the party
- c. over the party



7) I always carry a picture _____.

- a. on my children
- b. in my children
- c. of my children

8) She quit her job _____.

- a. for personal reasons
- b. by personal reasons
- c. on personal reasons

9) The meeting lasted _____.

- a. of two hours
- b. over two hours
- c. with two hours

Quiz 7 Answers

- 1) b. on the table
- 2) c. at the clubhouse
- 3) b. in a circle
- 4) a. of the book
- 5) c. to his boss
- 6) b. for the final exam
- 7) a. with a drink
- 8) c. over the repairman's estimate
- 9) a. by a delivery man

Quiz 8 Answers

- 1) a. on the phone
- 2) b. by the door
- 3) c. with my money
- 4) a. to the house
- 5) b. in a hotel
- 6) b. at the party
- 7) c. of my children



- 8) a. for personal reasons
- 9) b. over two hours

Quiz 9: Directions: What is the adjective prepositional phrase?

1) The book on the table belongs to my teacher.

- a. The book on
- b. on the table
- c. belongs to

2) The teens in our neighborhood drive too fast.

- a. in our neighborhood
- b. The teens in
- c. drive too fast

3) The members of the swim team are practicing.

- a. The members of
- b. are practicing
- c. of the swim team

4) The customer at the bakery was very rude.

- a. at the bakery
- b. The customer
- c. was very rude

5) The woman with the camera took pictures.

- a. The woman with
- b. with the camera
- c. took pictures

6) The park by the school was vandalized.

- a. The park by
- b. by the school
- c. school was vandalized



Quiz 10: Directions: What word is the adjective prepositional phrase describing or modifying?

- 1) The lady in the high heels is stunning.
 - a. lady
 - b. high heels
 - c. stunning

- 2) The clerk at the post office looked bored.
 - a. post office
 - b. bored
 - c. clerk

- 3) The shoes by the front door are dirty.
 - a. front door
 - b. shoes
 - c. dirty

- 4) The man with the dragon tattoo looks intimidating.
 - a. dragon tattoo
 - b. man
 - c. looks

- 5) The guy on the roof is patching holes.
 - a. guy
 - b. roof
 - c. holes

- 6) The people of our neighborhood are very friendly.
 - a. friendly
 - b. neighborhood
 - c. people



Quiz 9 Answers

- 1) b. on the table
- 2) a. in our neighborhood
- 3) c. of the swim team
- 4) a. at the bakery
- 5) b. with the camera
- 6) b. by the school

Quiz 10 Answers

- 1) a. lady
- 2) c. clerk
- 3) b. shoes
- 4) b. man
- 5) a. guy
- 6) c. people

Quiz 11: Directions: What is the adverb prepositional phrase?

- 1) Her friends started smoking at the concert.
 - a. at the concert
 - b. started smoking
 - c. Her friends

- 2) We live in a brand new house.
 - a. new house
 - b. in a brand new house
 - c. We live in

- 3) The best area to live here is by the beach.
 - a. by the beach
 - b. The best area
 - c. to live here

- 4) She was featured briefly on TV.
 - a. on TV
 - b. featured briefly



- c. She was featured

- 5) The dog jumped quickly over the fence.
 - a. The dog jumped
 - b. over the fence
 - c. quickly over

- 6) The couple met secretly with a marriage counselor.
 - a. with a marriage counselor
 - b. met secretly
 - c. marriage counselor

Quiz 12: Directions: What word is the adverb prepositional phrase describing or modifying?

- 1) Paul works in a downtown skyscraper.
 - a. downtown skyscraper
 - b. works
 - c. Paul

- 2) Let's all meet at the restaurant.
 - a. all
 - b. meet
 - c. restaurant

- 3) The dog waited patiently by the front door.
 - a. dog
 - b. front door
 - c. waited

- 4) She escaped safely with the firefighter's help.
 - a. escaped
 - b. firefighter



c. help

5) The gymnast landed perfectly on two feet.

a. landed

b. feet

c. gymnast

Quiz 11 Answers

1) a. at the concert

2) b. in a brand new house

3) a. by the beach

4) a. on TV

5) b. over the fence

6) a. with a marriage counselor

Quiz 12 Answers

1) b. works

2) b. meet

3) c. waited

4) a. escaped

5) a. landed