

ENGLISH

Grammar: Prepositions



Functions of Prepositions

What do Prepositions do?

We have studied in the previous chapter that a **preposition** describes the relationship of its object with another word or idea in the sentence. In this chapter, we will study the various functions performed by prepositions to express these relationships.

What are the Functions of Prepositions?

A preposition can be used to indicate

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|----------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Place | 6. Purpose |
| 2. Time | 7. Agent |
| 3. Destination | 8. Contrast or Concession |
| 4. Origin | 9. Measure |
| 5. Motion | 10. Possession |

Prepositions Indicating Place

Prepositions are used to indicate the **spatial relationship** (related to space) between the words in a sentence.

The jars are placed **on** the shelf.

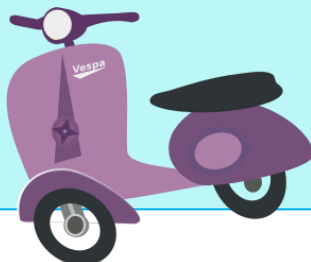
We met our friends **at** the library.

I found a piece of paper **under** the rock.

The Shahs lived **in** this neighbourhood.

The tiger jumped **over** the roof.

I parked my scooter **by** the wall.



Prepositions Indicating Time

Prepositions are used to indicate the temporal relationship (related to time) between the words in a sentence.

The train arrived **at** midnight.

Mr Mehta is flying to Delhi **on** Monday.

Be sure to reach the auditorium **by** 10 PM.

The company has been bankrupt **for** three years.

She has been driving a car **since** her youth.

Jay brushes his teeth **before** sleeping.



Prepositions Indicating Destination

Prepositions are used to indicate the direction of the movement of the subject.

The thieves moved **towards** the exit.

He made a dash **for** the door.

The dog jumped **at** the intruder.

The young woman ran **to** her room.

Reena crawled **onto** her bed.

The mermaid dived **into** the water.



Prepositions Indicating Origin

Prepositions are used to indicate origin or source of an action or movement of the subject.

The Reddys hail **from** Telangana.

Goddess Aphrodite emerged **out of** the ocean.

She came back **from** her trip.

The phoenix rises **out of** its own ashes.

A putrid smell wafted **out of** the room.

Ratnagiri is where the best mangoes come **from**.



Prepositions Indicating Motion

Prepositions can be used to indicate the movement of the subject in the sentence.

The snake darted **across** the floor swiftly.

Rajesh danced **to** his wife's tunes.

The knife went **through** the block of cheese.

Here we go **round** the mulberry bush!

The students marched **along** the road.

The crocodile swam **across** the river.



Prepositions Indicating Purpose

Prepositions can be used to indicate the utility or purpose of the subject of the sentence.

The cloth is used **for** wiping.

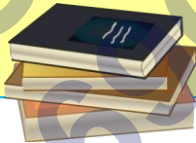
I need a bigger knife **to** cut this.

Jars are used **to** store peanuts.

A servant was called **to** assist her.

I need these books **for** reading.

Jamuna was hired **for** typing.



Prepositions Indicating Agent

Prepositions are used to indicate that something is responsible for an action done on the subject of the sentence. The action is always expressed in the passive voice.

Melissa was hit **by** a ball.

Ivan was employed **by** an agency.

Subbu spoke **with** conviction.

He thrives **on** people's kindness.

The pie was baked **with** lard.



Leena achieved it **with** perseverance.

Prepositions Indicating Contrast or Concession

Prepositions can be used to express contrast between two ideas in a sentence.

For all your arrogance, you are incredibly stupid. With all its faults, this software is the best.

Notwithstanding his lies, the jury saw through his character. Despite Lata's protests, Raju left for Chennai.

For every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction. In spite of his wealth, Madhukar was greedy.



Prepositions Indicating Measure

Prepositions can be used to express measurement.

I am taller than you by an inch.

The sugar is sold for Rs 30 a kilo.

Paper is sold by the bundle.



I drove for two hours.

The victim lost blood by the minute.

Reena purchased them for twenty rupees.

Prepositions Indicating Possession

Prepositions can be used to establish possession of a noun by the other.

The file belongs to the office.

These are the complete works of William Shakespeare.

It is an age of enlightenment.

I can hear the sound of the sea.

Students of the chemistry class praised him.

Oh, that naughty dog of mine!



Prepositions

What is a Preposition?

A **preposition** is a word which usually precedes a noun, a pronoun or a gerund. The word which follows the preposition is called the **object** of the preposition.

The man is standing **at** the gate.
The flowers were given **to** her.
I am tired **of** talking.

Prepositions show the relationship of its object with another word or idea in the sentence.

Examples:

1. The car moved **towards** the tunnel.

(Relationship between a car's movement and the tunnel)

2. The eagle flies **in** the sky.

(Relationship between the eagle's flight and the sky)



What are the Types of Prepositions?

There are **five** basic types of prepositions:

1. Simple prepositions
2. Compound prepositions
3. Double prepositions
4. Participial prepositions
5. Phrase prepositions

Simple Prepositions

Prepositions which consist of just **one** word are known as simple prepositions.

to	for	at	by	in	on	off	with	through	over
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The Sharmas house was set **on** fire.
 Granny will visit us **in** May.
 Manjula smiled **at** the visitor.
 They went **off** the main road.

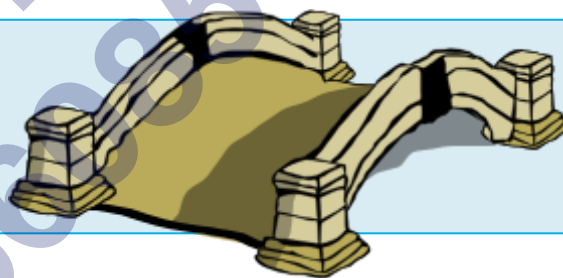


Compound Prepositions

Prepositions which are formed out of prefixing a preposition (a- or be-) with a noun or an adjective are known as compound prepositions.

across	amidst	beneath	inside	along	beyond	between	among	behind	within
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A bridge was built **across** the river.
 The mouse hid **inside** the cupboard.
 Wild flowers grew **along** the road.
 There is no honour **among** thieves.



Double Prepositions

When two prepositions come together to convey a single idea, the pair is called a double preposition.

along with	apart from	inside of	from behind	up to	down on	away from
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She went **along with** her mother.
Apart from a big bungalow, Mr Moorthy also owns a flat.
Except for Asha, everyone in the class fared badly.
 Meenal was always two steps **ahead of** her rival Akshaya.



Phrase Prepositions

Phrase prepositions are formed when a group of words come together to function as a unit. These prepositions usually follow the **Preposition + Noun + Preposition** structure.

Preposition	Noun	Preposition	Phrase Preposition
in	accordance	with	in accordance with
by	the virtue	of	by the virtue of
in	regard	to	in regard to
in	front	of	in front of
in	order	to	in order to
on	behalf	of	on behalf of
for	the sake	of	for the sake of
-	owing	to	owing to

The police arrested the offender **in spite of** his resistance.
 Marjorie's performance is pale **in comparison to** Betty's.
 Darius has no trouble winning friends **owing to** his friendly nature.
In the course of my career, I have never seen someone as vile as he is.

Participle Prepositions

When a verb ending in **-ing** or **-ed/-en** functions as a preposition, it is called a participle preposition.

considering	notwithstanding	assuming	given	following	regarding	gone
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Given the nature of the situation, it is fair that he apologises.
Assuming she is the mother of the child, the judge should rule in her favour.
Regarding yesterday's problem, I have found a solution for it.
Notwithstanding all his wealth, he was tried like a common man.