

Prepositions



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Icebreaker

- In 30 seconds, write down as many English prepositions as you can

What are prepositions?

- Words used to link nouns, pronouns or phrases to other words in the sentence
- Act to connect the people, objects, time and locations within the sentence
- Usually short words found before nouns or gerunds
- Help “glue” a sentence together

Some examples

- I chased my daughter **around** the backyard.
- My son ran **down** the stairs.
- I left the note **on** the table.
- My birthday is **in** April.
- I work **at** Brock University.

Why are they challenging?

- Prepositions are one of the last acquired structures by English language learners
- 2 main reasons:
 - They are conceived differently in different languages
 - They are difficult to hear because they are not stressed in the input

Types of prepositions

3 main types:

1. Location
2. Time
3. Direction

Prepositions of Location

3 most common are *on, in, at*.

For example:

- The cat is **on** the table.
- I live **in** Beamsville.
- I am **at** school now.

On: refers to something on a surface

In: refers to something inside or within confined boundaries

At: refers to something at a specific point

Prepositions of Location con't.

- Also many others such as, *under, over, beside, above, below, inside, outside, around, by*
- In general, prepositions of location can fill the blank in the following sentence:

The mouse ran _____ the house.

Prepositions of Time

Are used to indicate when something happens, happened or will happen.

Again, the 3 most common are *at*, *on*, *in*. For example:

- I was born **at** exactly 2am.
- I was born **on** July 11th.
- I was born **in** 1988.

At: use for times, festivals, indicators of exception

On: use for days, dates, specific holiday days

In: use for years, months, seasons, decades, centuries, times of day

time

place

Very specific moments:

- Hours
- Moments

*6 o'clock, 11:15 am
the moment
that moment*

AT

Very specific locations:

- Street addresses
- Specific places

*27, Forge Street
the cinema
home, school*

Days:

Days of the week

Specific days

*Monday / Friday
my birthday, St. Patric's day
Christmas day, 8th June
Nov. 25th 2003*

ON

Specific locations:

- Streets
- Avenues
- Floors

*Oxford Street
the 5th Avenue, NY
on the second floor*

periods of time:

*a week / 4 weeks
February / May
Spring / Summer
1981 / 2014
the 60's
the 1700's*

IN

Bigger locations:

- Towns / Cities
 - Parts of towns / cities
 - Countries
 - Parts of countries
- Bath, London
Chinatown
England, America
the south coast
The Midlands*

Exceptions:

*in 5 minutes
in the morning, in the afternoon, in the evening
at night, at midday, at midnight
at the weekend / on the weekend*

by @Phoenixbird_Jon

Prepositions of Direction

Indicate how someone or something moves from one place to another

Most common is *to*, *but* others include *through*, *up*, *down*, *across*, *off*, *into*. For example:

- I will go **to** bed when I'm tired.
- The fastest way is **through** the tunnel.
- I ran **down** the stairs to answer the door.

Let's Practice: The Weeknd

- Professional name of Abel Makkonen Tesfaye
- Canadian singer, songwriter and record producer



Activity: Blinding Lights

- On a blank sheet of paper, write the numbers 1-20.
- Next, read over the song lyrics on the document I will share.
- All the prepositions have been gapped out and numbered 1-20.
- Now listen carefully to the song and try to fill in the missing prepositions.

Questions?

