

English Prepositions

A) What are prepositions?

Prepositions are words that show the relationship between people, things, places, and time.

The most common prepositions are:

at, in, on, to, from, for, with, by, under, over, between, behind, in front of, next to, near, across from, into, out of, through, during, after, before, until, since

B) Prepositions of Place

These tell us where something is.

Preposition	Meaning	Example
in	inside	The keys are in the bag.
on	touching the surface	The phone is on the table.
under	below	The cat is under the chair.
over	above	The lamp is over the desk.
behind	at the back	The car is behind the house.
in front of	opposite behind	The school is in front of the park.
between	in the middle of two things	The bank is between the café and the supermarket.
next to	beside	Tom sits next to me.
near	close to	We live near the station.
opposite / across from	facing	The cinema is opposite the library.

C) Prepositions of Time

AT	ON	IN
* exact times * holidays * night	* days * dates * specific days	* months / years * seasons * parts of the day
Examples:	Examples:	Examples:
* I wake up at 6:30. * We eat lunch at noon.	* I play football on Saturdays. * We have an exam on July 10th	* Flowers bloom in spring. * She was born in 2012.

BEFORE / AFTER

- * Brush your teeth before bed.
- * We had coffee after lunch.

DURING

Means "throughout a period."

- * Don't talk during the movie.
- * It rains a lot during winter.

UNTIL

Means "up to a certain time."

- * The shop is open until 9 p.m.
- * Stay here until I return.

D) Prepositions of Movement

Preposition**Example**

to

We walked to school.

from

I'm from Spain.

into

She went into the room.

out of

He came out of the building.

across

They walked across the street.

through

The train went through the tunnel.

up

We climbed up the hill.

down

She ran down the stairs.

around

We walked around the park.

along

They cycled along the river.

E) Other Common Prepositions

WITH

Shows company or an object.

- * I live with my parents.
- * Write with a pencil.

BY

Shows the person who does something or the method of transport.

- * The book was written by Shakespeare.
- * I go to work by bus.
- * We travel by train.

Exception:

- * on the bus
- * on the train
- * on the plane

FOR	OF	ABOUT
Shows purpose or duration. * This gift is for you. * We stayed there for two weeks.	Shows possession or relationship. * The colour of the car * The door of the classroom	Shows the topic. * We talked about music. * This book is about animals.

F) Common Prepositional Phrases

Phrase	Example
at home	I'm at home.
at work	She's at work.
at school	The children are at school.
at the airport	We met at the airport.
in bed	The baby is in bed.
in hospital	He's in hospital.
in the city centre	They live in the city centre.
on holiday	We're on holiday.
on television	I saw it on television.
by mistake	I took your bag by mistake.

G) Common Verb + Preposition Combinations

Verb	Preposition	Example
listen	to	Listen to the teacher.
wait	for	I'm waiting for the bus.
look	at	Look at the picture.
look	for	I'm looking for my keys.
talk	to	Talk to your teacher.
speak	to	She spoke to her friend.
think	about	Think about your answer.
belong	to	This bag belongs to me.
depend	on	It depends on the weather.
agree	with	I agree with you.

H) Common Adjective + Preposition Combinations

Adjective	Preposition	Example
afraid	of	I'm afraid of spiders.
good	at	She's good at maths.
interested	in	They're interested in music.
famous	for	Italy is famous for pizza.
different	from	My phone is different from yours.
excited	about	We're excited about the trip.
proud	of	His parents are proud of him.

I) Quick Summary

Place

- * in = inside
- * on = on a surface
- * at = a specific place
- * under = below
- * between = in the middle of two
- * next to = beside
- * behind = at the back of
- * in front of = opposite behind

Time

- * at → 8:00, night
- * on → Monday, 5 May
- * in → July, 2026, summer, the morning
- * before / after → order of events
- * during → throughout a period
- * until → up to a time
- * since → from a starting point until now

Movement

- * to → destination
- * from → origin
- * into → entering
- * out of → leaving
- * through → inside a passage
- * across → from one side to another
- * along → following a line
- * around → surrounding or circling