



## Identification and usage of Prepositions

A self-study module for  
first year high school  
students

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Welcome! You are about to explore the wonders of prepositions. If *in, on, at, under and below, into and onto* confuses you, this module is perfect for you.

Preposition is definite in both form and meaning. You can't change a preposition to form another word or create another meaning. As an example, **AT** can never be added any prefixes like *ilat* or suffixes like *ation*. Sounds weird right? Its structure made it easy to spot the preposition in a sentence.

Preposition also conveys explicit meaning. When you say **the picture frame is above you**, it can only mean that what's above him is a Picture Frame - not at his back, it's above or any place higher than him.

Thus to study preposition requires mastery and familiarization of its various kind through constant practice. Being Second English Language speakers, we ought to know how to identify object positions at the same time its meaning depending on how and when it is being used.



*This module offers you plenty of practice exercises for mastery.*

*The sequence of lessons started from recognizing a preposition to applying its varied usage to increase the degree of learning.*

*The exercises contain repeated prepositions to develop your retention skills.*

*The sample sentences as well as the sentences in the exercises are localized and based on our daily activities which are useful for your real life application.*

*For visual learners, I've also included comprehensive pictures in almost each page.*



*Almost every sentence has prepositions in the list are the common ones. If you will find more prepositions, feel free to add the list.*

About, above, across, after, against, ago,  
among, around, along, at, before, behind,  
below, beneath, beside, between, by, down,  
during, from, for, in, into, like, near,  
next to, of, off, on, onto, out, over,  
past, since, through, towards, to,  
till/until, up, upon, under





## Getting to know prepositions

You will recognize a preposition through its position in a phrase. It is placed before or in between two nouns.

Example: **in** library, **at** him, toys **in** a box, house **across** the store

Can you see the pattern?

It is preposition + noun or noun + another noun.

Now let us try. Identify the preposition in each phrase by encircling it. The first one is already done for you.

1. television **on** wall
2. in 1300 B.C
3. at the bottom
4. between them
5. among the girls
6. at the moment
7. on Wednesday
8. stain on pants
9. book inside the drawer
10. pimple on my nose



1700



Sunday



Wednesday



1993

Preposition also connects two objects in a sentence.

Example: clear the writings **on** the board

The **writings** and the **board** is being connected by the preposition **ON** telling us that the writings are found on the surface of the board.

Time to try! Encircle the prepositions in the sentences and underline the two objects it connects. The first sentence is already done for you.

1. Lisa inserted some money in the envelope.
2. The chair was moved under the table.
3. Red curtain is hanging on the wall.
4. Put the book on the shelf.
5. Seashells on the shore.
6. Plastic bottles on the water.
7. The letter is from John.
8. Look at the sign above you.
9. A fly is on your ice cream.
10. I live across your house.
11. Wind passes through the holes.
12. Dog jumped over me.
13. There are pebbles on the glass table.
14. They hang decorative clock on the wall.
15. The baby has been sleeping since this morning.
16. It's already ten to nine.
17. Your clock must be broken; it's just ten past eight.
18. He will be absent until Tuesday.
19. Tony went into the kitchen.
20. Students gather around the teacher.



Lastly, preposition shows the relationship between two nouns that can also be referred to as objects. It answers the questions where, when, how, and who.

Example: **Bench shop is on the second level of the building.**

Where is Bench Shop? It's on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor.

It's now time that you try. Identify the preposition from each sentence by encircling it and tell the relationship between the two objects by telling what question it answers. The first sentence is already done for you.



1. It started raining in Mindanao. Where
2. She leaves home for school at 6:30 A.M.
3. We are at 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Emerald building.
4. Stand by me.
5. Type your name above the first line.
6. One of my classmates lives across the street.
7. The crowd suddenly disappeared right after the dance presentation.

8. A pile of chopped firewood is against the wall of the house
9. Jason left 2 hours ago.
10. I consider him the smartest among the siblings.
11. Golden doranta was planted around the school campus.
12. The teacher instructed that we gather at the stage.
13. Someone led the prayer before the class started.
14. The school canteen is behind the science building.
15. Draw a star beside each blank.
16. In English, the verb is between the subject and the object.
17. Our books were published by Phoenix.
18. The dark thick cloud looks like heavy smoke.
19. I was sitting next to my crush.
20. I go to school on foot.



check your answers on page 10



# Prepositions of time

**On** you will use **ON** with *days of week* (on Friday), *dates* (on February 14, 1987), and *special holidays* (on my birthday or on New Years Eve).



**In** is for *months, seasons, time of day, year, after a certain period of time* like in two minutes, in an hour.



**At** is more like an expression when you used it as a determiner of time such as *at night, at the weekend*. It also denotes a certain period of time like *at half past nine, at ten o'clock*.



1.on 2.in 3.at 4.between 5.among 6.at 7.on 8.on 9.inside. 10.on



**Since** is use when you describe an action from a certain point in the past that is still happening until now. Like when you say “*It has been raining since last night*”. We know that the rain started last night

**Raining**



**Last night**



**still raining**



**until now**

**Until/till** is use when you tell how long something will last. Example, *PAGASA predicts that heavy rain will be experienced early in July until the mid-week of the month.*

First week	will rain
Second week	will rain
Third week	will rain
Last week	will not rain



**For** is use when you describe an action from past to present. The difference is that you need to specify when is the end time – mention how long something goes on.

*We have been eating dried fish for a week now.*

June 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Dried fish	3 Dried fish	4 Dried fish	5 Dried fish	6 Dried fish	7 Dried fish	8 Dried fish

**Ago** is use when you refer to a certain time in the past. Just like this example:

*I received a Boy Scout Badge 2 years ago.*

Year : 2000    2010    2011    2012    2013



**Before** is use when you refer to something being done earlier than a certain period of time like this sentence: *I brush my teeth before I go to bed.*



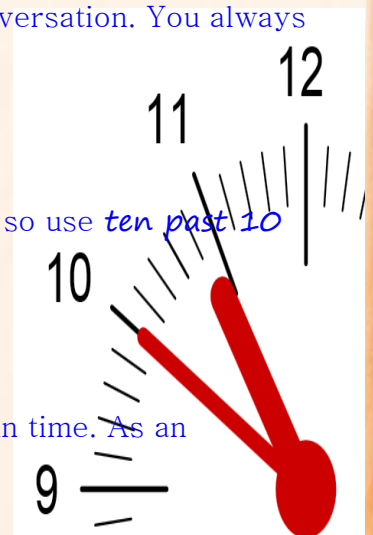
then



**To** is use when you are telling time like instead of saying 10:50 AM/PM, you will say *ten to eleven*. Remember that using TO in telling time is only use in conversation. You always write 10:50 in formal writing.

**Past** is use when you tell time too. It is also an informal expression so use *ten past 10* is spoken conversation when you mean 10:10 AM/PM.

**By** is use when you refer to something from the latest up to a certain time. As an example, *I will be done doing my homework by 10:50PM.*





Let's try!

Now that you've learned when to use the prepositions of time, let's test your skill.

I have here cooking steps to cook Humba. Notice that each step lacks some words. Fill the blanks with prepositions of time.

1. In a casserole, cook sugar and pork in oil until sugar has caramelized. Add tausi and garlic and cook \_\_\_\_\_ few minutes or \_\_\_\_\_ meat is slightly brown.
2. Add vinegar, soy sauce, laurel, peppercorn star anise, and Del Monte



Tomato Sauce. Do not stir \_\_\_\_\_ it simmers.

3. Add water and pineapple syrup. Cover and Simmer \_\_\_\_\_ 1 hour or \_\_\_\_\_ meat is tender. Add DEL MONTE Pineapple Tidbits. Simmer \_\_\_\_\_ 2 minutes.

Source: <http://www.delmonte.ph/kitchenomics/recipe/pork-humba>

Check your answers on page 13

## Let's have another try!

Fill each blank with prepositions of time

1. I might not be home \_\_\_\_\_ Saturday morning, but I'll be there \_\_\_\_\_ the afternoon.
2. I hope the weather will be nice \_\_\_\_\_ the weekend.
3. The camping begins \_\_\_\_\_ April 20<sup>th</sup> and ends sometime \_\_\_\_\_ May.
4. Hurry up! We've got to go \_\_\_\_\_ five minutes.
5. There are usually a lot of party \_\_\_\_\_ New Years Eve.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ Saturday night I went to bed \_\_\_\_\_ 11:00.
7. The telephone and the doorbell rang \_\_\_\_\_ the same time.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ the class started, Ted did not stop talking with his seatmate.
9. Where is Elly? It's her turn for the oral test. She should be here \_\_\_\_\_ now.
10. I mailed the letter today so Len-len should receive it \_\_\_\_\_ Monday.
11. \_\_\_\_\_ when did you start taking medicine? A month \_\_\_\_\_.
12. Ann is going away \_\_\_\_\_ a week in September.
13. Are you sure he wants us to be here \_\_\_\_\_ 6:30? It's already five \_\_\_\_\_ seven and he isn't here yet.
- 14 - 20. How will you say it? Use *to* and *before* to tell the time.

8:15 \_\_\_\_\_

7:20 \_\_\_\_\_

11:45 \_\_\_\_\_

12:57 \_\_\_\_\_

1:19 \_\_\_\_\_

4:27 \_\_\_\_\_

3:55 \_\_\_\_\_



## Let's try on conversations

### Conversation 1

ELLY                    Where is Lisa? It's already five \_\_\_\_\_ eight. The test will start soon. I hope she will be here \_\_\_\_\_ 8 o'clock.

MARIA                I don't know but I'm sure I saw her \_\_\_\_\_ I the bell rung. Oh, here she is.

LISA                    Hi Elly! Hi Maria! Are you ready for the test?

ELLY and MARIA    We hope so.

ELLY                    Where were you? We've been waiting for you \_\_\_\_\_ 10minutes.

LISA                    I talk to Mrs. Cruz outside.

### Conversation 2

STUDENT             Excuse me, I'm looking for Dr. Domingo. Is he still here?

SECRETARY          I'm sorry but he has left an hour \_\_\_\_\_. He's visiting a client I'm sure he will be back \_\_\_\_\_ 3 o'clock.

STUDENT             Will that's good. Thanks.

### Conversation 3

A. Hello Cherry, how are you? I haven't heard from you \_\_\_\_\_ a while.

B. I'm good. I'm here at Naga visiting my grandparents.

A. Oh I see. How long will you stay there?

B. \_\_\_\_\_ the summer ends. How about you?

# Prepositions of place

**IN** is use when you describe of something that is within a *continent, country, city, room, universe, galaxy, world, sea, ocean, box*. Imagine anything where you can put something in it.

The ball is in the box.



Philippines is in the Earth.



Another use if **In** is if you are telling the location of an object in a *picture, book, line, front* like

“Some students avoid sitting in the front row.”



**AT** is use when you refer to a *complete address (Lot 4 Block 7 Camellia Homes Lapu-lapu City), an event (at the party), and typical places we go like school, vehicle station and church (at school, at home, at the bus stop).*





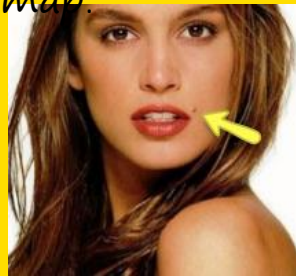
1.on,in 2.on 3.on,in 4.in 5.on 6.on,at 7.at 8.since 9.by 10.by 11.Since, ago 12.for 13.at, to 14.fifteen past eight 15.twenty past seven 16.fifteen to twelve 17.three to one. 18.nineteen past one. 19.twenty-seven past four 20.five to four



*ON* is use when you describe that something is on a surface of something like *on an island, on the floor, and on the table.*

*The apple is on the books.*

You also use *On* if something is attached to another thing such as *on her cheek, on a page, on the map.*



*On* is also use if you refer to *a street, on Mabini St.*



Use *On* if you are to refer something with *a paper, envelope, picture.*

*Write your name on the back of this paper.*



For transportation, you use *on a bus, on a plane, on a ship, on a motorcycle, on a horse, on a jeep.*





**BY/NEXT TO/BESIDE** is use when you refer to something that is on the left or right of another thing, it can be somebody or an object. *She is by the window.*

*My father is the one standing next to the red car.*



**BETWEEN** is use when you refer to something being at the middle of two other things like "between A and C is B".

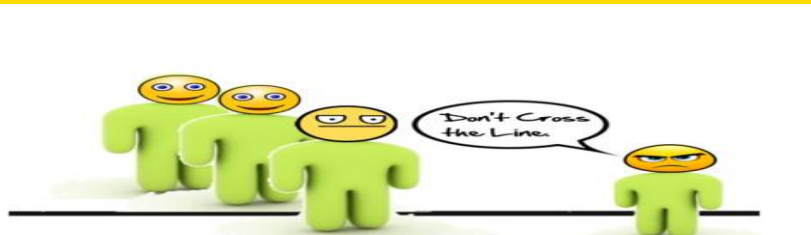


**AGAINST** is use when you describe something is leaning to something.

There is a contact between two objects. As an example, "*The chopped woods were piled against each other*".



**BEHIND** is use when you refer to something that is at the back of something or somebody. Some good examples are *Look behind you.*



*You must wait behind the line.*





**OVER** is use when you refer to something that pass over something else or somebody like when we say “The dog jumped over me.” You also use **OVER** to refer to something that is placed on top of something else such as “Put a scarf over your neck.” **OVER** also means more than like when we say “She’s over 10 years old.”



**UNDER** is use when you describe an object that is covered by something else. “The cat is under the blanket.” or “the roots grow bigger under the ground.” It can also mean that something is at a lower position of something like when we say “Your shoes are under your desk”.



**ABOVE** is use when you describe something is in the upper position of something like “A bee is flying above the flower.”



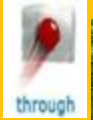
**BELOW** is use when you describe something that is lower than another thing but it is above the ground. “Children below 100 inches can use this pool.” Just like the preposition **ABOVE**, you can also use **BELOW** to refer to an age. “Children 18 years old and below are not allowed to watch the film.”

- 1.on
- 2.at
- 3.in
- 4.behind
- 5.in
- 6.on
- 7.among
- 8.under
- 9.in
- 10.by

- Answers for
- Conversation 1
  - to, by, before,
  - for
  - Conversation 2
  - ago, by
  - Conversation 3
  - for, until



**ACROSS** is use when you describe and object or someone that went to another side like *swim across the lake*. It can also mean **OVER** like *walk across the bridge*.



**THROUGH** is use when you refer to something or someone that goes from one side to the other end of a place like “*Campers walked through the forest*”.



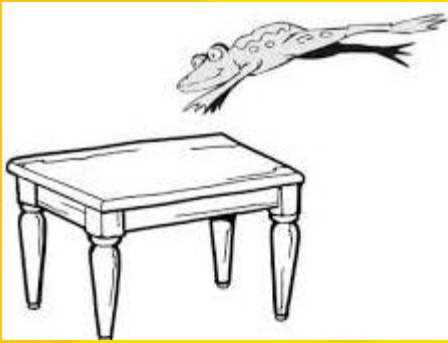
**TOWARDS** is use when you refer to a movement of something or somebody in direction of something like “*walk towards the river.*”

**TO** is use when you refer to movement to person or building like *go to the mall, go to church, go to the restroom*. **TO** is also use if you refer to movement to a place or country like “*we moved to Cebu when I was in grade 5.*” You can also use **TO** for the following expressions *go to bed, go to sleep.*



- 1.up 2.at
- 3.around
- 4.on 5.for
- 6.under
- 7.under
- 8.under
- 9.through
- 10.on 11.in
- 12.in 13.on
- 14.under
- 15.under





**ONTO** is use when you refer to a movement to the top of something like *“A frog jump onto the table.”*



**INTO** is use when you refer to a movement inside to something like *“He inserted some money into the envelope.”*



**FROM** is use to describe the starting point like *“The frog was from the pond then jumped onto our table.”*



**AROUND** is use when you refer to something being surrounded by something or someone like when we say *“She walks around the town but her dog is nowhere to find.”*



**AMONG** is use when you refer to something or someone being one of the group or crowd like when we say *“He stood among all his friends.”*

- 1.the fire is next to the woodhouse.
- 2.the ant with ax is on the woodhouse.
- 3.the stone is beside the house.
- 4.the ladder is against the woodhouse
- 5.the fence is behind the woodhouse.
- 6.the ant with a hammer is below the ant with an ax
- 7.the woodhouse is on the ground
- 8.the ant is on the ladder
- 9.the ant with an ax is next to the ant with a saw
- 10.the ant in the ladder is by the window

*It's now time to try!*



<http://www.srls.org/alumni-news/>

Fill in the gap with prepositions of place to complete the story about a picnic.

\_\_\_\_\_ Sunday afternoon Fred, Tina and I went on a picnic \_\_\_\_\_ the Club house. \_\_\_\_\_ the picture, I was the one eating a sandwich \_\_\_\_\_ Tina. She is the only girl \_\_\_\_\_ our group so we often do her a favor especially when carrying heavy things. \_\_\_\_\_ the right, that is Fred. He is oldest \_\_\_\_\_ us. Oh, I forgot. Bantay also came with us. Tina's pet dog and he is \_\_\_\_\_ the picnic table. We are good friends.

We brought some food with us. We had tuna sandwiches, banana shake, bread, some fruits and juice. The food \_\_\_\_\_ the basket was from Fred. His Mom prepared it for him when she knew we're planning a picnic. The rest are made \_\_\_\_\_ Tina, she makes good sandwiches. Obviously, I did not bring anything to eat but we laugh all afternoon because I know how to tell good jokes.



## Let's try another one

### Under the Sea by The Little Mermaid

The seaweed is always greener  
In somebody else's lake  
You dream about going \_\_\_\_\_ there  
But that is a big mistake  
Just look \_\_\_\_\_ the world \_\_\_\_\_ you  
Right here \_\_\_\_\_ the ocean floor  
Such wonderful things surround you  
What more is you lookin' for?

\_\_\_\_\_ the sea  
\_\_\_\_\_ the sea  
Darling it's better  
Down where it's wetter  
Take it from me  
Up on the shore they work all day  
Out in the sun they slave away  
While we devotin'  
Full time to floatin'  
\_\_\_\_\_ the sea

Down here all the fish is happy  
As off \_\_\_\_\_ the waves they roll  
The fish \_\_\_\_\_ the land ain't happy  
They sad 'cause they \_\_\_\_\_ their bowl  
But fish \_\_\_\_\_ the bowl is lucky  
They in for a worser fate  
One day when the boss get hungry  
Guess who's going be \_\_\_\_\_ the plate

\_\_\_\_\_ the sea  
\_\_\_\_\_ the sea  
Nobody beat us  
Fry us and eat us  
In fricassee  
We what the land folks loves to cook  
Under the sea we off the hook  
We got no troubles



Let's try more



Identify the position of an object to another object by replacing “and” with a “preposition of place” and form it to a sentence.

Fire and the woodhouse

Ant with ax and the woodhouse \_\_\_\_\_

Stone and the woodhouse \_\_\_\_\_

Ladder and the woodhouse \_\_\_\_\_

Fence and the woodhouse \_\_\_\_\_

Ant with hammer and ant with ax \_\_\_\_\_

Woodhouse and the ground \_\_\_\_\_

Ant and ladder \_\_\_\_\_

Ant with ax and ant with saw \_\_\_\_\_

And with ladder and window \_\_\_\_\_

Check your answers on page 18



The background is a vibrant, multi-colored abstract composition. It features a central rainbow-like gradient transitioning from red at the top to blue at the bottom. The entire scene is filled with numerous small, multi-colored stars and larger, semi-transparent star shapes in various colors like yellow, blue, and green. The overall effect is bright, celebratory, and festive.

**Good Job!**

*Congratulations!*



*Consider yourself an expert of prepositions of time and place. Next time, we will venture on other types of prepositions.*



References:

Grammar in use Intermediate by Raymond Murphy

Advance grammar in use by Martin Hewings

[www.ego4u.com](http://www.ego4u.com)

[www.delmontekitchenomics.com](http://www.delmontekitchenomics.com)

[www.srls.org](http://www.srls.org)

Suggested sites for practice:

[www.usingenglish.com](http://www.usingenglish.com)

[www.studyandexam.com](http://www.studyandexam.com)