

Prepositions

Introduction to Prepositions

Prepositions are words that join a noun, a pronoun or a group of words acting as a noun with another part of a sentence. **A preposition should always have at least one object** (noun, pronoun or a group of words acting as a noun). This is the object that it joins with the rest of the sentence.

For example:

Reema's house is located **near** the temple.

(Here, 'near' is a preposition that connects the noun 'the temple' with the rest of the sentence. 'The temple' is the object of the preposition, i.e., the prepositional object.)

Remember: *A preposition will always have an object.*

What does a preposition do?

A preposition **shows the relation between its object and the part of a sentence with which it joins the object**. Consider the following examples to understand the different relations shown by a preposition.

Nalini will return **on** Monday.

Here, 'on' is the preposition that connects 'Monday' with the rest of the sentence. **'Monday' is the prepositional object.**

Without the preposition, the sentence would look as follows:

Nalini will return _____ Monday.

Very clearly, 'Monday' has to be linked in some manner with 'Nalini will return'. When 'on' is added to the empty space, one gets to know **WHEN Nalini will return**. She will return **ON Monday**. Hence, in this sentence, the preposition indicates **TIME**.

Kapil is waiting **in** the park.

Here, 'in' is the preposition that connects 'the park' with the rest of the sentence. **'The park' is the prepositional object.**

Without the preposition, the sentence would look as follows:

Kapil is waiting _____ the park.

Very clearly, 'the park' has to be linked in some manner with 'Kapil is waiting'. When 'in' is added in the empty space, one gets to know **WHERE Kapil is waiting**. He is waiting **IN the park**. Hence, in this sentence, the preposition indicates **PLACE**.

Unni is going **toward** Raju's house.

Here, 'toward' is the preposition that connects 'Raju's house' with the rest of the sentence. **'Raju's house' is the prepositional object.**

Without the preposition, the sentence would look as follows:

Unni is going _____ Raju's house.

Very clearly, 'Raju's house' has to be linked in some manner with 'Unni is going'. When 'toward' is added to the empty space, one gets to know **WHERE Unni is going**. He is going **TOWARD Raju's house**. Hence, in this sentence, the preposition indicates **MOVEMENT**.

He comes to office **by** bus.

Here, 'by' is the preposition that connects 'bus' with the rest of the sentence. **'Bus' is the prepositional object.**

Without the preposition, the sentence would look as follows:

He comes to office _____ bus.

Very clearly, 'bus' has to be linked in some manner with 'he comes to office'. When 'by' is added to the empty space, one gets to know **HOW he comes to office**. He comes **BY bus**. Hence, in this sentence, the preposition indicates **MANNER**.

Yudhishtir went to Darjeeling **for** a vacation.

Here, 'for' is the preposition that connects 'a vacation' with the rest of the sentence. '**A vacation' is the prepositional object**.

Without the preposition, the sentence would look as follows:

Yudhishtir went to Darjeeling _____ a vacation.

Very clearly, 'a vacation' has to be linked in some manner with 'Yudhishtir went to Darjeeling'. When 'for' is added to the empty space, one gets to know **WHY Yudhishtir went to Darjeeling**. He went there **FOR a vacation**. Hence, in this sentence, the preposition indicates **PURPOSE**.

A leg **of** the round table is broken.

Here, 'of' is the preposition that connects 'a leg' with 'the round table'. '**The round table' is the prepositional object**.

Without the preposition, the sentence would look as follows:

A leg _____ the round table is broken.

Very clearly, 'a leg' has to be linked in some manner with 'the round table'. When 'of' is added to the empty space, it becomes clear that **one of the legs OF 'the round table'** is broken. Hence, in this sentence, the preposition indicates **POSSESSION**.

Manju looks just **like** her grandmother.

Here, 'like' is the preposition that connects 'Manju looks just' with 'her grandmother'. **'her grandmother' is the prepositional object.**

Without the preposition, the sentence would look as follows:

Manju looks just _____ her grandmother.

Very clearly, 'her grandmother' has to be linked in some manner with 'Manju looks just'. When 'like' is added to the empty space, it becomes clear that **Manju looks just LIKE her grandmother**. Hence, in this sentence, the preposition indicates **SIMILARITY/COMPARISON**.

The toy was given to the little boy **by** his parents.

Here, 'by' is the preposition that connects 'the toy given to the little boy' with 'his parents'. **'His parents' is the prepositional object.**

Without the preposition, the sentence would look as follows:

The toy was given to the little boy _____ his parents.

Very clearly, 'the toy given to the little boy' has to be linked in some manner with 'his parents'. When 'by' is added to the empty space, it becomes clear as to **WHO gave the toy to the little boy**. It was **given to him BY his parents**. Hence, in this sentence, the preposition indicates **SOURCE/AGENCY**.

Prepositions of Time

Pulkit has told me to tell you that he will be home **after** ten.

The priest ate his food sometime **after** his cat had drunk its milk.

Dharam woke up **at** 3:00 A.M. to go to the airport.

The postman brings the daily mail **at** two in the afternoon.

Zeeshan and Anil like studying **at** night.

Rohan got up **at** sunrise and jogged from his house to the National Stadium.

Mr. Subramaniam is busy **at** the moment. Please call after half an hour.



The boss ordered Ramlal to finish the work **before** five o'clock.

Girish always comes to the office half an hour **before** his colleagues.

The thieves escaped through the window well **before** the alarm was raised.



During Vikramaditya's reign, there was justice and peace all over.

Someone was laughing **during** my piano recital.

The schools are closed **during** the really hot summer months.

Ramamurthy has been exercising **for** one hour.

Remember: Use 'for' when the noun refers to time duration.

Hari was playing football **from** six to seven.



I will see Harsh at this same place **in** five minutes.

Roshan's cousins will be coming to Delhi **in** July.

Zafar's last movie had released **in** the year 2000.

The young and educated of India were leaving for foreign countries **in** the 1990s.

Gini has won several awards **in** the past.

India was a colonised state **in** the nineteenth century.

Patel decided that he will trim the bushes **in** the morning.



I forgot to thank Deepa at the party **on** Friday.

I found this magic wand beside the lake of truth **on** a Wednesday evening.

I had great fun **on** my birthday.

We will be in Goa **on** the first day of the coming New Year.

I will miss the flag hoisting ceremony **on** the Republic Day.

Yuvraj has been playing hockey **since** he was twelve.

Rini has been working non-stop **since** ten in the morning.

Remember: Use 'since' when the noun refers to a point of time.

We have **till** tomorrow to come up with a solution to the problem.

I will be in the examination hall from morning **till** noon.

They had **until** Tuesday to finish the project.

I will be working in the garden from two **until** three.

Pulkit has been asked to complete the project **within** a week.

Prepositions of Place, Position or Location

The painting was hanging **above** the fireplace when I last saw it.

On the roll number list, my name comes **after** Mayank's.

Yashika is talking on her phone, leaning **against** the window of her bedroom.

The children sat **around** the strange man and waited for him to speak.

You will find the marriage party **at** the end of this road.

Dinesh is usually found **at** the Hanuman temple on Tuesdays.

Mr. Jones will be staying **at** the Traveller's Paradise hotel for the next three days.

Joginder was an all-rounder **at** school and college.

Regular study is **at** the top of my New Year resolution list.

If you want any movies, then you can call Rubina. She works **at** the video store.

You can find me **at** the Sahitya Academy Library.

The sun is **at** the centre of the solar system.

I saw Disha **at** Jini's birthday party.

Only one issue of importance was discussed **at** the meeting yesterday.



Remember: Use 'at' with the name of a place when you think of it as a point.

I couldn't see a single thing as you sat **before** me.

Murali was standing **behind** the door, waiting for Raghu to come in.

They are **below** the mountain. We can easily see them from here.

To tell the truth was **beneath** his idea of morality.

Chandran was standing **beneath** Rupa's window when the bee stung him.

The car was parked **beside** the coconut tree.

The flower pot containing the stolen jewels is kept **between** the two guards.

Jonathan will meet me **in** the afternoon at the Tarana restaurant.

Yash has been **in** the publishing industry for the last five years.

The star was shining brightly **in** the sky.

The children have been playing **in** the field all day long.

The lawyer was sitting **in** the chair, waiting for his client.

The A4-sized sheets are **in** the lower drawer.

Johnny lives **in** a three room apartment all by himself.

Meena has been living **in** this building for years.

I was **in** the lift when the power went off.

Gayatri has been living **in** China for three years.

Ramesh was born **in** Thrissur.

Rosie's name is mentioned **in** the latest issue of Business Every day.

I read an article **in** yesterday's paper about how to perfect your English.

Remember: Use 'in' with the name of a place when you think of it as an area.

All Chintamani wants to do is sit **in** a boat and fish all day long.

The suspect is hiding **in** the red Mercedes.

Remember: Use 'in' when you mean a specific/particular car, taxi, lorry, van or ambulance.

Everybody laughed when Ranbir fell **on** the floor.

The umbrella is lying **on** the table.

The address was written **on** a piece of red-coloured paper.

There are absolutely no fruits **on** this tree.

Humpty Dumpty sat **on** a wall.

Siddhant told me that he lives **on** the fourth floor of this building.

My grandparents live **on** a poultry farm.

Jack saw some pirates hiding **on** the ship.

Remember: Use 'on' with the name of a place when you think of it as a surface.

The police were searching for an escaped convict **on** the bus.

I was sitting **on** a bicycle, while she was sitting in a car.

Remember: Use 'on' when you mean a specific/particular bicycle, bus, train, ship or plane.

The gold coins of Jahangir lie hidden **under** the great banyan tree.

Donna is waiting for you **under** the park bridge.

Trisha's doll is lying **underneath** her bed.

The dog is hiding **underneath** the table.

I will remain **within** the house until the weather outside becomes bearable.

Prepositions of Direction or Movement

The wizard jumped **across** the wide river with the help of his magic shoes.

There is a little problem with the bridge **across** the river.

The gardener broke his slippers running **after** the children.

In the torchlight, I saw my grandfather coming **along** the muddy path.

The children ran **along** the road to greet their cousins.

Ghosh was shouting **at** Mithun for throwing away his wicket after getting a start.

The journalist threw the shoe **at** the minister.

All these pilgrims are heading **for** Sabarimala.

The puppy ran **into** the kitchen in pursuit of a rat.

Champu jumped **into** the river on seeing Sheru.

The cat jumped **onto** the table.



The detective threw his gloves **onto** the table.

The monkey climbed **onto** the branch on seeing the crocodile.

Billu and Pinky are going **to** their Mamaji's house tomorrow.

Latika is moving **toward** a bright future.

The jubilant crowd is rushing
toward the joyous captain.



Other Relations Shown by Prepositions

Source or Agent

That song was sung **by** Sonu Nigam.

A parcel has come **from** your uncle.

A message has arrived **from** heaven.

Comparison or Contrast

The monkey looks more human **beside** you.

This place was **like** heaven on earth before the war.

I am **like** a dog chasing cats.

This movie is **unlike** any that you have seen before.

Unlike Karan, Ravi is a hard working boy.

It is so **unlike** Mohit to be at the office after five.

Manner or Method

Shashi was running **at** top speed to escape the ghost in the white dress.

The children attracted attention onto themselves **by** shouting loudly.

Ratna will come **by** Rajdhani Express.

He travels **by** bus regularly.

They went to the temple **on** foot.

In my native place, everyone eats food **with** their hands.

Purpose or Reason

Dev was punished by his dad **for** throwing a stone at the bird.

My mom tells me to eat spinach **for** good health.

This movie is meant **for** intelligent viewers.

Jeetu has two extra tickets **for** the fourth India-Australia ODI.

He is a great player who stands **for** team spirit and sportsmanship.

Possession

The actor Samar Khan is an old friend **of** mine.

The greatest work **of** Shakespeare is *Hamlet*.

Gajar ka halwa is a speciality **of** my mom.

Big boss told me to get out **of** his room.

He has confessed that he does not have the gold **with** him.