

# Preposition Exercises

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A word that is placed before a noun or sometimes even a pronoun to show the relationship of the noun or pronoun to another word in the sentence is called a preposition. Words such as on, in, at, for, to are some examples of a preposition.

## Preposition of Time

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### AT

It relates to a point of time.

- I will meet you at lunch.
- She gets up at 6 o'clock every day.

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### IN

- It is used for a wider extent of space or time.  
We shifted to a new place in February.  
He was born in 1985.
- It also shows future time; time starting from now.

The meeting will begin in about fifteen minutes.

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### ON

'On' is used with days and dates.

- I shall meet you on next Friday.
- The examination will be hold on 15 September.

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### WITHIN

It denotes before the end of a period of time.

- I shall complete my work within two hours.
- He will be back within an hour.

(Before the expiry of the time given)

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## BEFORE

It is used to express the period before a point of time.

- Don't worry. I will reach there before time.
- You must give me a call before 6 p.m.

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## AFTER

It is used to express the period after a point of time.

- I can not meet you after 4 o'clock.
- She can meet me only after her mother has left for work.

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## UNTIL

It is used to express the duration of time up to a specific period.

- My father can not leave office until his boss leaves.
- I can not come until 6 o'clock.

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## DURING

It is used to express the interim period of two actions.

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- I am available during the lunch hour.
  - During that period, I was not at home.

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## FROM

‘From’ specifies the point in time at which a particular process, event or activity starts. It also expresses source.

- I will be in the office from 6 to 8 p.m.
- I received a gift from my friend.

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## SINCE

‘Since’ is used to suggest the point of time at which an action started.

- I have been waiting for you since 7 a.m.
- She has been studying since morning.

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## FOR

‘For’ is used to suggest the period of time for which an action has been going on.

- The meeting has been going on for close to two hours.
- She has been reading the novel for almost two months now.

## Prepositions of Place

### AT

‘At’ suggests a certain place in a given area.

- She stood at the end of the queue.
- He stays at Rani Bagh.

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### ON

‘On’ suggests a specific place.

- The notice was pasted on the display board.
- The clothes are lying on the bed.

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## IN

‘In’ is used to express the specific space in an object/area.

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- There are a lot of animals in the zoo.
  - There is very little milk in the bottle.

## BETWEEN

It is used for two persons, places or things.

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- The table is lying between the two chairs.
  - Divide the books between Mohan and Rakesh.

## AMONG

‘Among’ is used for more than two persons or places.

- 
- The boys quarelled among themselves.
  - The shirt was lying among old clothes.

## OVER/ABOVE

Both ‘over’ and ‘above’ have a similar meaning. They both mean “at a higher position than X”, but above usually refers to being directly (vertically) above you.

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- His head could be seen above the water.
  - The plane is flying above the clouds.
  - The fan is just over my head.
  - The birds are flying over the trees.

## UNDER/BELOW

Both ‘under’ and ‘below’ have a similar meaning. They mean “at a lower level”. (There is something above it)

- 
- My shoes are under the bed.

- 
- There is a parking lot under the building.
  - During swimming, her body was below the water.
  - I had hidden my box below the almirah.

Note: Sometimes we use the word 'underneath' instead of 'under' and 'beneath' instead of 'below'. There is no difference in meaning, only they are less commonly used these days.

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#### IN FRONT OF

Expresses the front-facing.

She is waiting for me in front of the gate. There is a car in front of the door.

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#### BEHIND

It is the opposite of 'in front of'. It means 'at the back of something'.

He is waiting for me behind the gate. Just behind the office, is the mall.

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#### BESIDE

It means 'by the side of'.

Come and sit beside me.

The chair is lying beside the bed.

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#### BESIDES

It means 'in addition to'.

I can't do it alone, you will have to assign the work to someone else besides me. He received a cash prize besides a certificate.

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#### NEAR

It expresses closeness of two objects or places.

The bank is near the library.

My friend stays near my house.

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#### OPPOSITE

It expresses the distance between two objects or places facing each other.

There is a bus stop opposite our house.

An eating joint has opened opposite the school.

### Prepositions Showing Direction

#### TO

- Yesterday, we went to see a movie.
- A car took us to the station.

## INTO

This word expresses motion inwards.

- She went straight into the chamber.
- The fisherman jumped into the river.

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## TOWARDS

- They threw the ball towards me.
- The thief ran towards the crossing.

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## ACROSS

- She loves to swim across the river.
- 
-

|         |  |
|---------|--|
|         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I had to meet my friend across the railway station.</li> </ul>                |
| PAST    | <p>He walked past me as if he didn't know me.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>                 |
|         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Go past the flyover to reach the airport.</li> </ul>                          |
| THROUGH | <p>We have to go through the forest.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>                          |
|         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The parrot flew through the window.</li> </ul>                                |
| UP      | <p>The shepherds walked up the hill.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>                          |
|         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I had to go up the stairs to reach the 2nd floor.</li> </ul>                  |
| DOWN    | <p>My grandmother fell down the stairs and fractured her leg.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul> |
|         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The monkey jumped down from the tree.</li> </ul>                              |
| OFF     | <p>You are feeling sleepy. Do not fall off the bed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>           |
|         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The paint is coming off the wall.</li> </ul>                                  |

#### ALONG

- She went for a walk along the sea beach.
- The procession was going along the road.

#### ROUND/AROUND

- 
- The animal was circling round the tree.
  - The company went round the whole city to advertise.
  - There was a gravel path around the statue.
- 

## OVER

It also expresses direction.

- The plane flew over the hills.
  - The thief jumped over the wall in order to escape.
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## OUT OF

- The teacher took the sweets out of the box.
  - The clothes were falling out of the suitcase.
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## Other Prepositions and their Uses

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### ABOUT

It suggests the subject of a conversation, a book or a talk, etc.

- I was just discussing about the book, you have written.
  - This chapter is all about financial matters.
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### BY

It relates to the 'agent' or 'doer'. It is also used with means of transport.

- The man was bitten by a snake.
  - We will go by a taxi.
- 

### FOR



It is used to show purpose.

- Let us go for a movie.
- He has gone for a walk.

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## WITH

It is used to relate the instrument employed for doing something. WITH also suggests company and association.

- He walks with the help of a stick.
- She can write with both hands.
- Rajesh is working with a famous director.
- Remove these stains with a detergent.

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## OF

It suggests belonging and pertaining to some person or something.

- One chapter of this book has not been done.
- My mother often talks of her childhood friends.

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## AT

It is used in certain special expressions, at home, at least, at all costs, at a loss: etc.

- I am not expecting anything from her at all.
- Finish your meals at once, otherwise you will not be allowed to play.

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## UNDER

It is also used in these expressions: under the impression, under repair, under treatment etc.

- I was always under the impression that she is a Chinese.

- Under the rules, you can not be given any allowances.

### List of Words Followed by Prepositions

|                    |                      |                |
|--------------------|----------------------|----------------|
| Abide by           | Charge with          | Conscious of   |
| Absorb by          | Cling to             | Consist of     |
| Born of            | Collide with         | Contented with |
| Born to            | Compare to           | Cure of        |
| Bound for          | Compare with         | Deal in        |
| Borrow from        | Complain of          | Deal with      |
| Busy with          | Complain against, to | Depend on      |
| Call at            | Condemn to           | Deprive of     |
| Call on            | Confidence in        | Desire for     |
| Care for           | Confident of         | Die of         |
| Care of            | Congratulate on      | Differ from    |
| Differ with        | Kind to              | Repent of      |
| Different from     | Knock at             | Respect for    |
| Disgusted with, at | Known to             | Responsible to |
| Dismiss from       | Key to               | Satisfied with |
| Dispose of         | Lame of              | Search for     |
| Due to             | Laugh at             | Send for       |
| Eligible for       | Listen to            | Short of       |
| Engage in          | Live on              | Shock at       |
| Engage to          | Long for             | Sick of        |
| Enquire after      | Married to           | Similar to     |
| Enquire of, about  | Marvel at            | Slow at        |
| Enquire into       | Match for            | Slow of        |
| Exclude from       | Negligent in         | Sorry for      |
| Excel in           | Notorious for        | Succeed in     |
| Familiar to        | Obedient to          | Stand by       |
| Familiar with      | Object to            | Succeed to     |
| Famous for         | Obliged to           | Suffer from    |
| Feed on            | Occur to             | Superior to    |
| Feel for           | Opposite to          | Sure of        |
| Fond of            | Part from            | Surprised at   |

|                |               |                 |
|----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Free from      | Part with     | Sympathetic to  |
| Full of        | Pity for      | Sympathize with |
| Glad at        | Pity on       | Sympathy for    |
| Good at        | Pleased with  | Talk to         |
| Grateful to    | Polite to     | Taste for       |
| Grieve at      | Popular with  | Thankful to     |
| Guard against  | Preferable to | Tired of        |
| Guilty of      | Prefer to     | Tired with      |
| Honest in      | Pray to       | Trust in        |
| Hope for       | Prepare for   | True to         |
| Ignorant of    | Preside over  | Tyrannize over  |
| Import from    | Prevent from  | Useful for      |
| Indifferent to | Prey to       | Useful to       |
| Inferior to    | Pride in      | Warn of         |
| Infested with  | Proud of      | Warn against    |
| Inform of      | Quarrel with  | Want in         |
| Injurious to   | Recover from  | Wish for        |
| Insist on      | Reduce to     | Wonder at       |
| Interest in    | Regard for    | Worthy of       |
| Interfere with | Related to    | Yearn for       |
| Introduce to   | Relieve of    | Yield to        |
| Invite to      | Rely on       | Zeal for        |
| Jealous of     | Remember to   |                 |
| Junior to      | Remind of     |                 |

## Preposition Exercises Solved Examples

### Question 1.

Fill in the blanks with correct prepositions.

- Sheeba was born ..... the year 1985.
- They are going to meet ..... lunch in the afternoon.
- Try not to compromise ..... your principles.
- My father is very fond ..... sweets.
- He has not yet recovered ..... his illness.
- He rules ..... a vast empire.
- I have not slept ..... yesterday.
- The man walked ..... the house.

- (i) The sweets were distributed ..... the children at the party.  
 (j) Rajesh has returned almost ..... a month.

**Answer:**

- (a) in  
 (b) at  
 (c) on  
 (d) of  
 (e) from  
 (f) over  
 (g) since  
 (h) around/towards  
 (i) among  
 (j) after

**Question 2.**

- (a) Meenal has achieved a lot in her life but she cannot be given the credit (i) ..... all that she boasts (ii) .....  
 (b) Sandwiches are snacks made (i) ..... bread and some filling (ii) ..... it.  
 (c) There is a playground (i) ..... our house where children play (ii) ..... the evening.  
 (d) The program begins (i) ..... an hour and I have to be there (ii) ..... 6 p.m.  
 (e) The class was divided (i) ..... two groups and each group had (ii) ..... vote a leader (iii) ..... themselves who would represent them (iv) ..... the class debate (v) the annual function.  
 (f) I reached the party (i) ..... time but there was nobody (ii) ..... welcome me.  
 (g) He agreed (i) ..... my proposal and also agreed (ii) ..... what I had said.  
 (h) (i) ..... displaying his presence of mind, he was able to kill the snake (ii) ..... an iron rod.

**Answer:**

- (a) (i) for (ii) about  
 (b) (i) of (ii) in  
 (c) (i) near/ outside (ii) in  
 (d) (i) in (ii) by  
 (e) (i) into (ii) to (iii) for (iv) in (v) at  
 (f) (i) on (ii) to  
 (g) (i) to (ii) to/with (h) (i) By (ii) with

**Question 3.**

- (a) Raman fell (i) ..... the soft grass (iii) ..... his way back home (iv) ..... school (v) ..... 4 p.m.

- (b) I would like (i) ..... help her (ii) ..... her studies as she has her test (iii) ..... Monday.
- (c) He is the thief the police were looking .....
- (d) Cheating was being done ..... the very nose of the invigilator.
- (e) This is difficult work and is ..... his capacity.
- (f) He goes to his office (i) ..... foot but sometimes goes (ii) ..... cycle also.
- (g) Make sure that when I return, the room is free ..... dirt.
- (h) Rajan fell straight (i) ..... a ditch and could not get out (ii) ..... it (iii) ..... his own.
- (i) The guests preferred vegetarian food (i) ..... non-vegetarian food, so the cook prepared a dish made (ii) ..... fresh vegetables (iii) ..... aromatic spices.
- (j) She went and sat (i) ..... her grandmother (ii) ..... listen (iii) ..... a story.

**Answer:**

- (a) (i) with (ii) on (iii) on
- (b) (i) to (ii) in (iii) on
- (c) for
- (d) under
- (e) beyond
- (f) (i) on (ii) by
- (g) of
- (h) (i) into (ii) of (iii) on
- (i) (i) to (ii) with (iii) in
- (j) (i) beside (ii) to (iii) to to