**Module** : Grammar

**Level** :First year LMD

**Academic Year**: 2020-2021

7. Prepositions

A **preposition** is a word that shows the relationship between **a noun** or a **pronoun** and another word in the sentence. It may refer to *direction, time, location, or ownership*. **e.g :** The man swam ***under***the bridge. ( *Under* connects the idea of *swam* and *bridge* .)

**object of preposition**

Most prepositions are one word (of, from, in,…), but some are two words (next to, because of, according to) or even three words (in front of, in addition to)

* + - * ***As a result of*** *the flood, we had to move* ***out of*** *our home.*
      * *The bird* ***on top of*** *the tree* ***outside of*** *my window is singing loudly.*
      * *That is the correct answer* ***according to*** *the textbook.*
      * *I hope he wins the prize* ***for the sake******of*** *his children.*
      * *You should keep a fire extinguisher* ***in case of*** *fire.*

1. Prepositions of time

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| **Preposition** | **Use** | **Examples** |
| **In** | in months | **in** July; **in** September |
| Year | **in** 1985; **in** 1999 |
| Seasons | **in** summer; **in** the summer of 69 |
| part of the day | **in** the morning; **in** the afternoon; **in** the evening |
| Duration | **in** a minute; **in** two weeks |
| **At** | part of the day | **at** night |
| time of day | **at** 6 o'clock; **at** midnight |
| Celebrations | **at** Christmas; **at** Easter |
| fixed phrases | **at** the same time |
| **On** | days of the week | **on** Sunday; **on** Friday |
| Date | **on** *the* 25th *of* December |
| special holidays | **on** Good Friday; **on** Easter Sunday; on my birthday |
| a special part of a day | **on** the morning of September *the* 11th |
| **After** | later than sth. | **after** school; **after** summer holidays |
| **Ago** | how far sth happened (in the past) | 6 years **ago** |
| **Before** | earlier than sth. | **before** Christmas; **before** going out |
| **Between** | time that separates two points | **between** Monday and Friday |
| **By** | not later than a special time | I sent the documents today, so they should receive them **by** Thursday.(on or before Thursday but no later) |
| **During** | through the whole of a period of time | **during** the holidays |
| **For** | period of time | **for** three weeks |
| **from ... to**  **from... till/until** | two points form a period | **from** Monday **to** Wednesday  **from** Monday **till** Wednesday **from** Monday **until** Wednesday |
| **Past** | time of the day | 23 minutes **past** 6 (6:23) |
| **Since** | point of time | **since** Monday |
| **till/until** | no later than a special time | **till** tomorrow/ **until** tomorrow |
| **To** | time of the day | 23 minutes **to** 6 (5:37) |
| **up to** | not more than a special time | **up to** 6 hours a day |
| **Within** | during a period of time | **within** a day |

**Let’s practice (01)**: put in the correct preposition (**at, in, on,** or **no preposition)**

* There was a loud noise which woke us up midnight.
* What are you doing the weekend?
* last week, I worked until 9pm every night.
* My father always reads the paper breakfast time.
* She plays tennis Fridays.
* The trees here are really beautiful the spring.
* I’ll see you Tuesday afternoon, then.
* Shakespeare died 1616.
* She studies every day.
* John is going to buy the presents today.
* In my hometown the shops open early the morning.
* She met her husband 1998.
* The party is next Saturday.
* We are meeting Friday morning.
* I often get sleepy the afternoon.
* His daughter was born the 24th of August.
* Mobile phones became popular the nineties.
* The meeting will take place this afternoon.



1. Prepositions of place / position

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| **Preposition of place** | **Explanation** | **Example** |
| **in** | * inside | * I watch TV **in** the living-room * I live **in** New York * Look at the picture **in** the book * She looks at herself **in** the mirror. * She is **in** the car. * Look at the girl **in** the picture * This is the best team **in** the world |
| **at** | * used to show an exact position or particular place /address * table * events * place where you are to do something typical (watch a film, study, work) | * I met her **at** the entrance, **at** the bus stop * She lives at 1089 Pine Street * She sat **at** the table * **at** a concert, **at** the party * **at** the movies, **at** university, **at** work |
| **on** | * attached * next to or along the side of (river) * used to show that something is in a position above something else and touching it. * left, right * a floor in a house * used for showing some methods of traveling * television, radio * a person lives : on a street/avenue/road/.. | * Look at the picture **on** the wall * Cambridge is **on** the River Cam. * The book is **on** the desk * A smile **on** his face * The shop is **on** the left * My apartment is **on** the first floor * I love traveling **on** trains /**on** the bus / **on** a plane * My favorite program **on** TV, **on** the radio * She lives **on** Pine Street. |
| **by, next to, beside, near** | * not far away in distance | * The girl who is **by**/ **next to** / **beside** the house is my sister. |
| **between** | * in or into the space which separates two places, people or objects | * The town lies halfway **between** Rome and Florence. |
| **behind** | * at the back (of) | * I hung my coat **behind** the door. |
| **in front of** | * further forward than someone or something else | * She started talking to the man **in front of** her |
| **under** | * lower than (or covered by) something else | * The cat is **under** the chair. |
| **below** | * lower than something else. * temperature/ heights | * the plane is just **below** the cloud * The temperature is five degrees **below** zero |
| **Over**  **above** | * above or higher than something else, sometimes so that one thing covers the other. * more than. * higher than something else, but not directly over it * temperature/heights | * She held the umbrella **over** both of us. * Most of the carpets are **over** $100. * They live in a chalet **above** the village. * It is 2 degrees **above** the normal temperature. |

**Other prepositions of place:** at the back of , at the bottom of, at the top of, in the corner of, in the middle of, to the left of, to the right of, on the other side of, on the side of, opposite, in the middle of, ….

**Examples:**

* + *There is a large garden* ***in the middle of*** *the skyscraper.*
  + *The smallest room is located* ***to the left of*** *the internal garden.*
  + *The entrance to room number three is* ***opposite*** *the entrance to room number two.*

***Let’s practice*:** Insert the most appropriate preposition

* He's \_\_\_\_ hospital, having a heart operation.
* I’ll meet you \_\_\_\_\_ the Statler Hotel.
* Kids are playing \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the house. It is too cold outside.
* The boy hid the money \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a rock \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the garden.
* He translated the book \_\_\_\_\_\_\_Russian \_\_\_\_\_\_ English.
* She is going to spend a week \_\_\_\_\_Paris next summer.
* We are still living \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Bedford Avenue.
* Who is that small boy \_\_\_\_\_\_ the picture?
* She hung a picture \_\_\_\_\_\_ the door.
* The snow \_\_\_\_\_\_ the valley still hasn’t melted yet.
* Louis stuck his gum \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the table.

1. Prepositions of Movement/direction

They are used to show movement from one place to another: **In, to, into , out of, up to , away, from, around, through, over**, **down, past, towards**

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| **across** | * from one side to the other of something with clear limits / getting to the other side | * She walked **across** the field/road. * He sailed **across** the Atlantic |
| **through** | * from one end or side of something to the other | * They walked slowly **through** the woods. |
| **to** | * in the direction of * bed | * We went **to** Prague last year. * I go **to** bed at ten. |
| **into** | towards the inside or middle of something and about to be contained, surrounded or enclosed by it. | * Shall we go **into** the garden? |
| **towards** | * in the direction of, or closer to someone or something | * She stood up and walked **towards** him. |
| **onto** | * used to show movement into or on a particular place | * I slipped as I stepped **onto** the platform. |
| **from** | * used to show the place where someone or something starts: | * What time does the flight **from** Amsterdam arrive? |
| over | * across from one side to the other. * overcoming an obstacle. | * I walked **over** the bridge * She jumped **over** the gate |

More Examples :

* *I go* ***to*** *school by bus. Sofia flew* ***to*** *Canada. They came* ***to*** *the wedding.*
* *Walk* ***through*** *the exit of room two and enter* ***into*** *building number three.*
* *Walk* ***across*** *the indoor garden to reach room number five.*
* *Walk* ***past*** *the side entrance to reach the main entrance.*
* *Let’s go for a walk* ***around*** *the park.*
* *Walk* ***towards*** *the sea and turn left at the first street.*

Let’s practice: Complete the sentences with the most appropriate preposition.



through into down to over out of along

1. I moved Germany in 1998.
2. This train arrives ………… Milan at 21:36.
3. The teacher came ………… class ten minutes late today.
4. John fell………… a tree and broke his arm.
5. Put your books and notes…………. We're going to do a test!
6. It's a long way………… Europe to China.
7. Can you put your arm …………the window and open the door?
8. Go ………… the bridge and turn left at the 
9. Our next trip will be……… the United States.
10. While I was in New York I visited …………Fifth Avenue.
11. We didn't get ………… home until very late.

**Adverb or preposition?**

The difference between a preposition and an adverb is that an adverb answers the questions, *Where? When? How? To what extent?* by itself. It comes alone. It is not followed by a noun.

Prepositions need more than just themselves to answer the same questions. They are followed by nouns to form a **prepositional phrase**.

**e.g. - He fell *down* .** ( *Down* is an *adverb* because it takes only one word to tell where he fell.)

**- He fell *down* the stairs** ( *Down* is a *preposition* because it takes more than a single word

**Prepositional phrase** to tell where he fell.)

***Let’s practice:*** write whether the underlined word in each sentence is a preposition or an adverb.

1.The children enjoyed playing outside. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2. A beautiful cherry tree grows outside my bedroom window. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3. An eager autograph-seeker slipped past the doorman. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

4. A fire engine just sped past. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

5. These belong on the shelf above the encyclopedia. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

6. A seagull circled high above. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

7. It was too warm to leave our jackets on. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

8. Burt was wobbly on his new ice skates. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

9. I must have left my notebook behind. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

10. We sat behind a woman with a big hat on.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_