

We'll learn all the types of prepositions from simple to compound prepositions, and learn these types through useful examples. Whether you're a language learner or just brushing up, we've got everything you need to grasp these essential elements of grammar.

What is Preposition?

A [preposition](#) is a word that links nouns, pronouns, or phrases to other words within a sentence to establish various types of relationships between them. In simple words, a preposition is a small word used before a noun or pronoun to show place, direction, time, or how things are related.

Prepositions are integral to the structure of sentences, offering cues that help interpret the meaning and relationships of the components within a sentence. For example, prepositions can indicate:

- **Location:** "The book is **on** the table."
- **Time:** "We will meet **at** noon."
- **Direction:** "She walked **toward** the park."
- **Relationship:** "This gift is from **my sister**."
- **Agency:** "The story was written **by** Hemingway."

Types of Prepositions In English

Here are the eight types of prepositions, each defined with examples:

Preposition of Time

Time prepositions indicate temporal relationships, specifying when something happens.

Examples:

1. We will meet **at**
2. The store closes **before**
3. She has been working here **since**
4. The meeting is scheduled **for**
5. He reads **during** his commute.

Preposition of Place

Place prepositions indicate the location or position of something.

Examples:

1. The book is **on** the shelf.
2. They live **at** 123 Maple Street.
3. The cafe is located **between** the bookstore and the library.
4. The flowers are **in** the garden.
5. He stood **beside**

Preposition of Direction

Direction prepositions indicate the direction in which something moves.

Examples:

1. The bird flew **towards** the tree.
2. Walk **across** the bridge.
3. She ran **into** the room.
4. The cat jumped **onto** the counter.
5. He walked **around** the park.

Simple Prepositions

Simple prepositions are single words that show a relationship between two elements in a sentence, typically indicating time, place, or direction.

Examples:

1. The cat is **on** the table.
2. She arrived **after** the meeting had started.
3. He lives **in** New York.
4. She is good **at**
5. The book is **under** the desk.

Double Prepositions

Double prepositions are two simple prepositions used together, often indicating a more specific relationship.

Examples:

1. She walked **out of** the room.
2. The painting is **inside of** the box.
3. Please step **out of** the car.
4. He jumped **off of** the diving board.
5. The cat climbed **out from** under the bed.

Compound Prepositions

Compound prepositions are made up of two or more words that function together as a single preposition.

Examples:

1. The report is **according to** the recent study.
2. They stood **in front of** the monument.
3. She is acting **on behalf of** her company.
4. The keys are **on top of** the fridge.
5. He was not allowed to enter **because of** his age.

Participle Prepositions

Participle prepositions are participles (verb forms ending in -ing, -ed, etc.) that act as prepositions.

Examples:

1. **Considering** the circumstances, he acted wisely.
2. The team played well, **notwithstanding** their previous losses.
3. **Regarding** your query, we will respond shortly.
4. The decision was made **following** the committee's recommendation.
5. **Given** the evidence, we must act now.

Phrase Prepositions (Prepositional Phrases)

Phrase prepositions, or prepositional phrases, are groups of words that contain a preposition, an object, and the object's modifier, acting together as a single preposition.

Examples:

1. He is **on top of** the world.
2. The solution is **in front of**
3. She is **in charge of** organizing the event.
4. We walked **in spite of** the rain.
5. The movie starts **at the end of** the hour.

These examples should give you a good understanding of the different types of prepositions and how they are used in sentences.

Disguised Prepositions

Disguised prepositions are words that function as prepositions but do not have the typical form or appearance of a preposition. They are often contractions or altered forms of more recognizable prepositions.

Examples:

1. 'Tis (it is) ten o'clock. ('Tis is a contraction where "t" stands for the old English preposition "to.")
2. I'll see you **o'** (of) Monday. (In dialect or poetic usage, "o'" can stand for "on.")
3. He works from dawn **till** (until) dusk. ("Till" is often used as a preposition meaning "until.")
4. We waited **a** (at) the station. (In some dialects, "a" is used for "at.")
5. Let's meet **'fore** (before) noon. ("Fore" is a shortened form of "before" used in informal contexts.)

Detached Prepositions

Detached prepositions occur when a preposition is separated from its object, often in interrogative or relative clauses. This can happen in conversational English and in questions where the preposition is moved to the end of the sentence.

Examples:

1. What are you talking **about**?
2. The candidate whom we voted **for** has won.
3. This is the book I was telling you **about**.
4. Is this the person you were looking **for**?
5. That's the situation we must deal **with**.

What are 3 Basic Types of Preposition?

The three basic types of prepositions are:

1. **Prepositions of Time:** These prepositions show when something happens. Examples include "at," "on," and "in." For example, "at midnight," "on Monday," "in the morning."
2. **Prepositions of Place/Position:** These prepositions show where something is or where something happens. Examples include "at," "on," and "in." For example, "at the corner," "on the table," "in the room."
3. **Prepositions of Direction/Movement:** These prepositions show the direction or movement of something. Examples include "to," "from," and "through." For example, "going to the store," "coming from the house," "walking through the park."