

PREPOSITIONS

■ Preposition Functions

Prepositions are frequently used in English to relate a noun or pronoun to some other word in the sentence. They express a number of relationships, including time, location, manner, means, quantity, purpose, and state or condition. You will find examples of preposition usage in your reading. Study them in the context in which they appear.

To Show Time:

When does it happen?

about	about noon (approximately)
after	after the game after lunch after three
at	at five o'clock at last (finally)
by	by midnight (not later than)
for	for an hour (duration)
from	from Monday to Friday
in	in the morning (evening) in the fall (spring) in April (month) in 1969 (year) in six months (at the end of) in time (early enough)
of	quarter of three
on	on Tuesday (weekday)
on	on May 8 (date)
	on time (punctual)
past	quarter past three
to	quarter to three

To Show Manner:

How did it happen? How was it done?

by	by doing it right, you save time
in	he left in confusion. the room was in a turmoil. you can do it in a day.
like	He looks like a hero.
on	I swear it on my word of honor
with	He ate it with a fork. He went with me.

To Show Place or Direction:

Where is it? Where is it going?

around	she walked around the car
at	they are at home we were at the restaurant he smiled at her
down	they lived down the hall
from	we drove from Utah to Iowa a mile from here
in	he lives in a trailer we waited in the bus he is in Paris
of	inside of the house south of Montreal
on	on the ocean pier on the train (bus, plane) on the table
through	we drove through the tunnel
to	he went to Prague give it to me
up	he walked up the stairs

To Show Means or Agent:

Who or what did it?

What was it done with?

by	he was hit by a ball she came by train he did it by hard work it came by special delivery he got there by swimming
from	his success came from planning.
in	he takes pleasure in it
on	they live on fruit
with	he cut the bread with a knife

To Show Purpose:*Why was this done?*

for He bought it for them.
 She went to the city for sightseeing.
 He loved her for her thoughtfulness.
 I asked you for it.
 We looked for it.

To Show State or Condition:*How or where is it?*

at My friend is at work.
 She is at home.
by They are by themselves. (alone)
in He is in a state of confusion.
on He is on duty. (subject to duty)

To Show Quantity or Measure:*How much? How long?*

for We drove for twenty miles.
 We bought it for ten cents.
by We bought them by the kilo.

■ Prepositions with Particular Verbs

account for (meaning <i>explain</i>)	hear of
agree on (something)	insist on, upon
agree with (someone)	invite (someone) to
apologize to	laugh at
apply for	listen for
approve of	listen to
argue with (someone)	look at
ask for	look for
believe in	look forward to
belong to	object to
blame (someone) for (something)	plan on
blame (something) on (someone)	provide for
borrow from	provide with
call on (upon)	recover from
care for	remind (someone) of
compliment (someone) on	search for
come from	see about
consent to	substitute for
consist of	talk about
convince (someone) of (something)	talk of
decide upon	telephone to
depend on, upon	think about
get rid of	think of
hear about	wait for (meaning <i>anticipate</i>)
hear from	wait on (meaning <i>serve</i>)

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