

1. He stood **up**.
2. She looked **down**.

C. Prepositions commonly used in English are one word prepositions but sometimes we also find two or three word sequences; e.g.

Due to, ahead of, because of, according to, instead of, but for etc.
On account of, by means of, in lieu of, on top of, in accordance with etc.

D. Some Verbs, when followed by certain prepositions become idiomatic in expression and acquire new meanings. Such Verbs are known as **Phrasal Verbs**. Some examples of Phrasal Verbs are given below:

Blow up (explode): The terrorists blew up the bridge.

Break out (appear suddenly): Cholera has broken out in the city.

Call on (visit): The delegation called on the Chief Minister.

Cut up (suffer grief or pain): He was cut up by the news of his mother's death.

Fall through (fail): The project fell through for lack of funds.

a. Prepositions of Place

At, in, on

He lives **at** 16 Circular Road

He was not **at** home when I visited him.

The chocolate is **in** the box.

He is not **in** his room.

The notice was pasted **on** the board.

She sat **on** a sofa.

At is used to describe a position or for nearness. **In** is used for position, for place which can be a continent, state, town, city or village and also for locality, road and street. **On** is used for location of things on the surface. Look at the diagrams given above.

b. Prepositions of Time

At, on, in, by, till, until, after, before are all used in expressions of time.

At is used to express exact point of time

1. He came **at** 5 o'clock.
2. The incident took place **at** midnight.

At is also used in meal time expressions, e.g.

- 1 We shall discuss it **at** dinner.
2. He was **at** lunch when I called on him.

At is used also with festivals, e.g.

1. We are going to have a party **at** Diwali.
2. She visited her parents **at** Christmas.
3. Rahim will get new clothes **at** Eid.

On is used for days and dates:

1. The English test is **on** Monday.
2. I met her **on** the 14th of May.

In is used with months, years, seasons, and parts of the day:

1. Elections will be held **in** March.
2. India became independent **in** 1947.
3. She came **in** the morning. (but **at** night, **at** noon)

By is used in the sense of *not later than*:

1. I will return **by** 4 o'clock.
2. She gets up **by** six in the morning.

Both **until** and **till** indicate continuity and end of a time period:

1. His friends stayed **till** five in the evening.
2. He did not go outside **until** 4 p.m.

After and **before** are used in the following ways, in expressions of time:

1. Lunch will be served **after** the meeting.
2. The meeting will be held **before** lunch.

Since and **for** are also used with regard to time. **Since** suggests a point of time and **for** a period of time:

1. I have not seen her **since** Monday last.
2. She has been absent **for** a week.

c. Prepositions of Instrument and Agent – with, by

1. I opened the door **with** a key. (instrument)
2. This picture was painted **by** Rahul. (agent)
3. The letter was received **by** the clerk. (agent)



4. She wrote on the blackboard **with** a piece of chalk.
(instrument)

d. Prepositions of Comparison – like , as

1. She behaves **like** a queen.
2. She speaks **as** a lawyer.



e. Prepositions of Solidarity and Opposition – with , for, against

1. He went to Delhi **with** his father. (company)
2. We are **with** you on this issue. (solidarity)
3. All the boys spoke **for** Rohit. (solidarity)
4. The girls spoke **against** the motion. (opposition)

f. Preposition denoting Possession, Relation and Quality – of

1. The leg **of** the table is broken.
2. This is a rod made **of** steel.
3. She is a cousin **of** Manish.

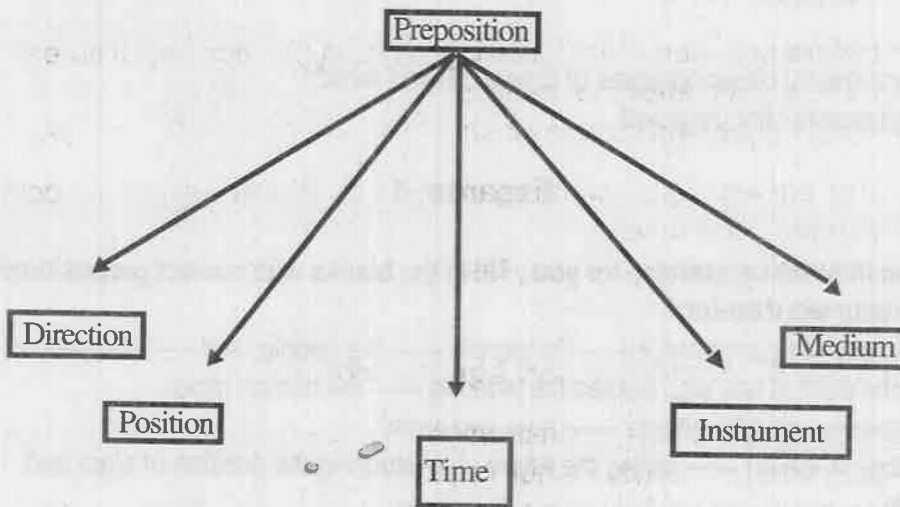


g. Preposition denoting the Receiver or the Beneficiary – for

1. This book is **for** you.
2. Milk and the chocolates are **for** the children.



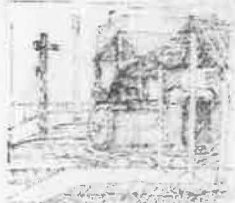
The important uses of Preposition can be presented in this way:



h. Some other Prepositions

- across The dog ran **across** the road.
- around The girl danced **around** the tree.
- through The train went **through** the tunnel.
- up The cyclist went **up** the hill
- down The cyclist went **down** the hill
- into The bucket fell **into** the well.

I. Prepositions of Position



in The students are **in** the class.



at I met him **at** the station.



under The dog is **under** the table.



over The bridge is **over** the river.



beside The daffodils were **beside** the lake and beneath the trees.

There are many other usages of prepositions which you will discover for yourself.

Exercise -1

Here is an interesting exercise for you. Fill in the blanks with correct prepositions and increase your word power:

1. Democracy is a government — the people — the people, and — the people.
2. A psychologist is one who studies the working — the human mind.
3. An archer is one who shoots — bow and arrow.
4. Astrology is the art — telling the future — studying the position of stars and planets.
5. An ambulance is a vehicle — transporting the sick — the hospital.

PREPOSITIONS

109

6. A dictionary is a book which contains the words — a language — their definitions — alphabetical order.
7. An encyclopedia is a book containing information — all branches — knowledge.
8. An autobiography is a record — one's life written — oneself.
9. A biography is the life-history — a person, written — someone else.
10. A telescope is an instrument — seeing distant objects.

Exercise - 2

- (1) How wonderful is the sudden change — bud — the leaf!
- (2) Nalanda University was born — the help — liberal public charity and donations.
- (3) He pointed its track — the gate and resumed his journey.
- (4) There are a lot — people — the world, and I have decided to accommodate my liberty — their liberties.
- (5) Man believes that diseases could be prevented — a return — nature.
- (6) I must confess that I am overwhelmed — the trust that my people have placed — me — electing me — the highest office — the land.
- (7) I was waiting — the platform when the train came.
- (8) But there is something that I must say — my people who stand — the warm threshold which leads — the palace — justice.
- (9) Birds, it is true, die — hunger — large numbers — the winter.
- (10) One day when he was walking — an unfamiliar backstreet, he came — an old woman — some fruit — a stall.

Project Work

Draw a map of an area where you would like to live. Give a description using words and phrases like **near, by, on, in, under, opposite, beside, above, below, not far from, in the middle of, at the foot of, at the top of, at the end of, etc.**