

Prepositions

I. Definition

A preposition is a word or a phrase which is placed before a noun or a noun phrase, or a pronoun, usually indicating time or place, or after a verb.

II. One Word Prepositions

- **about:** This book is **about** Algeria.
- **above:** Put it **above** the desk.
- **after:** You can start **after** her.
- **along:** I have planted flowers **along** the road.
- **among:** They have found him **among** the players.
- **around:** Turn **around** the corner.
- **at:** He is **at** school.
- **across:** We live **across** the road.
- **before:** You should be there **before** the end of the day.
- **below:** Your results are **below** the average.
- **beside:** Look at the girl **beside** you.
- **between:** The verb is **between** parentheses.
- **beyond:** Do not go **beyond** your limits.
- **by:** - You should be here **by** the end of the day.
 - Send it **by** e-mail.
 - I came **by** car.
 - Sit **by** here.
 - He increased his benefits **by** half.
 - He is liked **by** everybody.
- **behind:** Give this pen to the girl **behind** you.
- **for:** This is **for** you.
- **from:** I have gathered this **from** different sources.
- **in:** **In** your opinion, is this right?
- **into:** Go **into** the room and see whether she is there.
- **inside:** What is **inside** this box?

- **of:** The end of the lesson is soon.
- **on:** Write it on the board.
- **outside:** He is outside the house. (**He is outside**) (**Adv.**)
- **over:** It is forbidden to climb over the fence.
- **past:** It is five past ten.
- **since:** I have been here since ten o'clock.
- **until:** They will wait for you until the end of the day.
- **through:** The train will go through a tunnel.
- **to:** I gave a letter to your sister.
- **under:** The cat is under the bed.
- **with:** Come with me.
- **without:** Without concentration, you cannot learn.
- **within:** This is within your possibilities.

III. Phrasal Prepositions

- **according to:** According to me, you should stay at home.
- **as for:** As for me, I will wait here.
- **apart from:** Apart from this idea, I agree with you.
- **because of:** Because of his health problem, he could not come.
- **due to:** This situation is due to his carelessness.
- **owing to:** Owing to climatic problems, the plane cannot take off.
- **except for:** Except for the introduction, your essay is good.
- **out of:** Keep it out of sight.
- **up to:** You can go up to the end of this street.
- **in comparison with:** In comparison with the others, she is rather shy.
- **in relation to:** In relation to this point, I have nothing to say.
- **on top of:** I feel on top of the world.
- **with regard to:** With regard to your exam, you will get the results soon.

Note 1: Considering and regarding (Present Participle) are sometimes used as a Preposition.

E.g.1: Considering your situation, you are doing well.

Prep.

E.g.2: Regarding your participation in the competition, you will get an answer tomorrow. **Prep.**

Note 2: The Adjective “near” may be used as a Preposition.

E.g.: - He is sitting near the radiator.

Prep.

- The table is near.

N Adj.

IV. Verb + Prep.

- **To shout at/to:** - He shouted at me. (He was angry).

- He shouted to me. (He called me).

- **To throw at/to:** - He threw a stone at the cat. (He hit the cat).

- He threw the ball to me.

- **To look for/after:** - Look for the prepositions in this text. (Search).

- Look after your parents. (Take care.)

- **To dream of/about:** - Do you dream of being rich? (Imagine).

- I dreamt about you yesterday.

- **To remind of/about:**

- She reminds me of my friend. (She makes me remember.)

- Can you remind me about the meeting? (Tell me not to forget it).

- **To get by:** With the money you have, you can get by.

- **To slow down:** you are going too fast, you should slow down.

- **To break down:** On my way here, my car broke down.

- **To close down:** This shop has closed down. (Closed for good).

- **To let...down:** Don't let me down, I need your help. (Stay by my side).

- **To fill in:** You have to fill in this form.

- **To take off:** The plane has just taken off.

- **To get on:** - Get on with your work. (Do not stop working).

- How did you **get on** with the new student?
- **To look out:** **Look out!** There is a car coming.
- **To look up:** **Look** it (this word) **up** in the dictionary.
- **To wake up:** You should **wake up** now; it's 7 o'clock.

Note 1: Certain verbs are followed by two Prepositions.

- **To run away from:** Don't **run away from** the situation.
- **To keep up with:** I cannot **keep up with you**. You are walking too fast.
- **To look up at:** We **looked up at** the birds as they were flying above us.
- **To look forward to:** Are you **looking forward to** your holidays?

Note 2: In some cases, the Object can be inserted between the Verb and the Preposition which in this case is an Adverb.

E.g.: They **blew up** the bridge.

They blew **the bridge up**.

They blew **it up**.