

Topic: Prepositions

A preposition is a word used to link nouns, pronouns, or phrases to other words within a sentence.

Preposition of Place

A preposition of place is a preposition which is used to refer to a place where something or someone is located. There are only three prepositions of place.

At – A preposition of place which is used to discuss a certain point.

In – A preposition of place which is used to discuss an enclosed space.

On – A preposition of place which is used to discuss a surface.

By – a preposition of place which means beside, at the side of, or next to.

Prepositions of place give you the ability to tell others where something is located.

In the following examples, the prepositions of place have been bold for ease of identification.

1. Jessie waited for Jim **at** the corner.
2. The mall is located **at** the intersection of Main Street and Third Avenue.
3. We spent a quiet evening **at** home.
4. I'm growing tomatoes **in** my garden.
5. Marie was born **in** Paris, France.
6. I was so tired that I took a nap **in** the car.
7. Please place the bouquet **on** the table.
8. The house is **by** a lake.
9. What's **on** the menu this evening?

More prepositions of place are given below.

In the following examples, the prepositions of place have been bold for ease of identification.

1. Jane is jumping **into** the pool.
2. The books fell **off** the shelf.
3. The school is **near** the park.
4. The horse jumped **over** the hurdle.

Prepositions of Time - at, in, on, and by

When describing place and time the prepositions in, on, and at go from general to specific.

We use **at** for a precise time. For example, “He arrived **at** 3 o'clock”.

We use **in** for months, years, centuries, and long periods. For example, “It happened **in** May”.

We use **on** for days and dates. For example, “He came **on** Sunday”.

We use **by** for end time. For example, “The show should be finished by 8pm”.

When we say **last, next, every, this** we do not also use **at, in, on**.

Examples are given below.

- I went to London **last** June. (**not in last** June)
- He's coming back **next** Tuesday. (**not on next** Tuesday)
- I go home **every** Easter. (**not at every** Easter)
- We'll call you **this** evening. (**not in this** evening)

More prepositions of time are given below.

In the following examples, the prepositions of time have been bold for ease of identification.

1. We watched the World Cup game **until** 2:00 A.M.
2. The trees lose their leaves **during** winter.
3. We always wash our hands **before** meals.
4. Joe arrived **after** me.
5. It has not rained at all **for** two weeks.
6. Kevin and Joe have been in the same class **since** first grade.
7. Dad gets home **about** six **in** the evening.

Prepositions of Manner

Prepositions of manner describe the way things happen or the means by which things happen.

These prepositions include the words in, by, like, with, and on.

Here are several examples of prepositions of manner.

1. Martha goes to school **by** bus.
2. China went to school **in** a taxi.
3. The boy sang **like** a professional.
4. He reacted **with** anger when confronted by the police.
5. They traveled **on** foot due to the rough terrain.