

## PREPOSITIONS IN ENGLISH GRAMMAR AND ITS MEANING

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### ANNOTATION

This article attempts to discuss the meaning, definition and the use of prepositions. There are also examples of prepositions given to understand how they are used in sentences. The preposition is employed in sentences to show the relationship nouns, pronouns or phrases have with other parts within the respective sentences.

**Keywords:** prepositions, using, nouns, pronouns, verbs, phrases.

## ПРЕДЛОГИ И ИХ ЗНАЧЕНИЯ В АНГЛИЙСКОЙ ГРАММАТИКЕ

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### АННОТАЦИЯ

В этой статье делается попытка дать определение значению и использованию предлогов. Также приведены примеры предлогов и их использования в предложениях. Предлог используется в предложениях, чтобы показать связь произносимых существительных или фраз с другими частями речи в соответствующих предложениях.

**Ключевые слова:** предлоги, использование, существительные, местоимения, глаголы, фразы.

**Introduction.** Prepositions are indeed a crucial part of English grammar, as they help establish relationships between different elements in a sentence. Here's a comprehensive overview of prepositions and their usage. There is no reliable formula for determining which preposition to use with a particular combination of words. The best way to learn which prepositions go with which words is to read as much high-quality writing as you can & pay attention to which combinations sound right.

What is a Preposition? A preposition is a word that typically comes before a noun, pronoun, or noun phrase and shows the relationship between that noun or pronoun and other words in a sentence. Preposition is defined as "a function word that typically combines with a noun phrase to form a phrase which usually expresses a modification or predication.

**Common Prepositions:** Many prepositions are made up of only one word and are called simple or common prepositions. Some common prepositions include short & very common words like: about, above, across, after, against, along, amid, among, around, at, before, behind, below, beneath, beside, between, beyond, but, by, despite, down, during, except, for, from.

### Complex Prepositions

In general, the syntactic function of prepositions is to express a relationship between two entities; in this way they are similar to coordinating conjunctions & sentence transitions, which mark a relationship between ideas in two sentences. Complex prepositions are those that consist of more than word-usually of two or three words (e.g., as for, except for, in line with, according to, along with, as well as, because of, close to, due to, far from, respect to).

**Usage of Prepositions:** Prepositions are seen to show some key characteristics & perform some vital functions when used in sentences. Let us look at the various uses of prepositions in English. Prepositions can be divided into different types by

categorising them according to their functions. Prepositions are often used to indicate where something is located or the direction of movement. For example: The book is on the table. She walked across the bridge.

Prepositions can indicate when something happens. (time) For example:  
We'll meet at 3 o'clock. They arrived before the party started.

Prepositions indicate the direction of movement. (direction) For example:  
He walked into the room. She jumped over the fence.

Prepositions can indicate the reason for something.( cause) For example:  
He failed because of his laziness. They won thanks to their hard work.

Prepositions indicate ownership or possession. For example: The keys are on the table.

This is a book of mine.

Prepositions can indicate the doer of an action. (agent) For example:  
The book was written by Shakespeare. The gift was given to her by John.

Prepositions are used in comparisons. For example:  
He is taller than his brother.

She is as smart as her sister.

Prepositions indicate the purpose of an action. For example:  
She went to the store for some groceries. He took the umbrella in case it rained.

Common Mistakes with Prepositions:

1. There are many occasions where you might confuse prepositions. It is difficult to know when you should use (e.g., in/on, at/to). This is because their meanings are very similar, so you have to look at the context of the sentence.

2. Using prepositions unnecessarily.

3. Omitting prepositions when they are required.

Ahmad (2011) attempted the learning problems & analysed the errors in the use of prepositions. The findings of the study showed that the secondary school students

faced difficulties in learning prepositions of time and were confused while using prepositions in their writings.

According to Takako non-native English speaking researchers often find it challenging to use articles & prepositions correctly..., as some languages do not have the direct equivalent of the grammatical categories.

**Idiomatic Usage:** Prepositions often have idiomatic usage, their meaning can't be determined by the individual words alone. For example: "Run out of" meaning to have no more of something. "Look forward to" meaning to anticipate with pleasure.

### Prepositions Versus Conjunctions

According to Quirk et al (1985), sentence & discourse functions of prepositions and complex prepositions as a subclass have much in common those of conjunctions and adverbs. Both prepositions and conjunctions have connecting functions.

The key difference between conjunctions & prepositions is that prepositions are always followed by a noun, noun phrase, or nominalizations, including gerunds, but conjunctions conjoin the main and subordinate clauses, which necessarily have the predicate verb or verb phrase. Thus, if the conjunctions following such words as after or before contain a verb, this sentence unit is a subordinate clause. If no verb can be identified, the word is the preposition in a prepositional phrase.

Prepositions can interact with various parts of speech in a sentence. Here are some examples of how prepositions connect with nouns, adjectives, and verbs:

### Prepositions with Nouns:

1. Noun Phrase as Object: Prepositions often precede noun phrases to show the relationship between the noun and other elements in the sentence.

- She sat on the chair.
- The book is on the table.
- He walked through the park.

2. Noun of Place or Time: Prepositions can also be used with nouns to indicate place or time.

- We'll meet at the café.

- The event is in May.
- They went to the beach.

Prepositions with Adjectives:

Adjective Phrase as Modifier: Prepositions can also connect with adjective phrases to provide additional information or context.

- She's good at playing the piano.
- He's interested in learning French.
- They're excited about the trip.

Phrasal Verbs: Prepositions are part of phrasal verbs, where they combine with verbs to create idiomatic meanings.

- She looked after the children.
- He ran into an old friend.
- They talked about the project.
- He relies on his friends.
- She dreams of becoming a doctor.
- They insisted on the truth.

Understanding how prepositions interact with other parts of speech is essential for constructing grammatically correct and meaningful sentences in English.

**Conclusion:** There are more than 100 prepositions in the English language. In addition, there are endless possibilities for creating prepositional phrases, phrases that begin with a preposition & end with a noun or pronoun. We have to remember that prepositions usually convey concepts such as comparison, direction, place, purpose, source possession, and time.

### Literature:

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