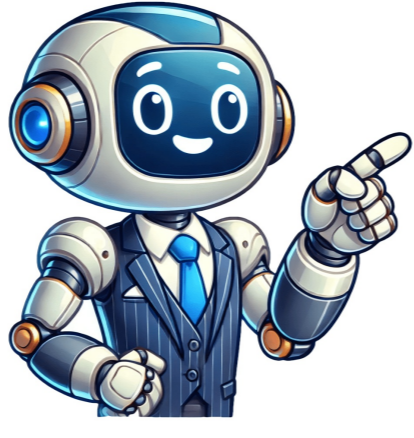


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Click here for our complete programme to perfect your English grammar.Prepositions are used in many different ways in English - perhaps that's why a lot of people have problems with them. First, they are used with time words: on Monday in the 20th century at night Click here to find out more about prepositions of time.Second, they are used to show where something or someone is: The plate is on the table. Julie is in the garden. The picture is on the wall. Click here to learn more about these little words with places.Third, they are used after some adjectives: She is good at tennis. Scotland is famous for whisky I'm worried about my new job. Click here to learn more about adjective + prep.Fourth, they are used after some verbs: I'm listening to music. She is waiting for her friend. He borrows money from his sister. Click here to learn more about verb + prep.Fifth, they are used after some nouns: She has trouble with remembering new vocabulary. Finally, they are used in certain phrases: The bus arrived in the end. She arrived just in time for the film. Click here to see my first 15 prepositional collocations. Click here for all the preposition exercises. Click here for our complete programme to perfect your English grammar. Preposition definition: A preposition is a part of speech that shows the relation of a noun or pronoun to another word. What is a Preposition? What are prepositions? Prepositions show the relationship of a noun or pronoun to another word. These relationships include where, when, who, or what. Examples of Prepositions: above (where?) before (when?) for (whom?) with (what?) Let's look closer at a preposition example. A preposition can be understood as anywhere a dog can be in relation to its doghouse. A dog can be: in the doghouse around the doghouse near the doghouse on the doghouse Each of these prepositions describe the relation between the dog and its doghouse. The dog can be inside the doghouse, it can be around the doghouse, it can be near the doghouse, it can be on the doghouse, etc. All of these preposition examples show where the dog is in relation to its doghouse. What is the Role of a Preposition? Prepositions function to show relationship. This relationship may indicate where, when, who, or what. Most often prepositions are used to introduce prepositional phrases. Prepositions serve to modify and generally function in prepositional phrases as adjectives or adverbs. Examples of prepositions indicating where: along (the path) amid (torment) throughout (the garden) within (men) Examples of prepositions indicating when: since (the storm) after (the party) before (noon) until (tomorrow) Examples of prepositions indicating who: besides (Petra) except (the children) with (everyone) for (the teacher) Examples of prepositions indicating what: besides (the essay) of (the few) like (the dog) with (chocolate) Preposition List Here is a list of prepositions. It is by no means exhaustive, but it is a list of some of the most commonly used prepositions in English. aboard about above across after against along amid among anti around as at before behind below beneath beside besides between beyond but by concerning considering despite down during except excluding following for from in inside into like minus near of off on onto opposite outside over past per plus regarding round save since than through to toward towards under underneath unlike until up upon versus via with within without For a more full list of prepositions, see our full page on the subject. Prepositions list here. Object of Prepositions Prepositions do not stand alone but rather take on objects. The word or words that follow the preposition are the object of the preposition. Examples: along (the path) The path is the object of the preposition. amid (torment) Torment is the object of the preposition. throughout (the colorful garden) The colorful garden is the object of the preposition. Some Prepositions Also Function as Subordinate Conjunctions Some prepositions can also function as subordinate conjunctions. In this case, a preposition will begin the conjunction and it will be followed by a subject and a verb. The prepositions that can function in subordinate conjunctions include: after, as, before, since, until. Prepositions together with subordinate conjunctions function as adverbs. Preposition Examples: Since the movie premiered, the star has received much attention. We could not make an appointment until the office opened the following day. The student did not think before he asked a question. What are Prepositional Phrases? What does prepositional phrase mean? Almost always a preposition will function in a prepositional phrase. A prepositional phrase is any preposition and its object (a noun). A prepositional phrase may also include any modifiers in the phrase. Prepositional phrases clarify the relationship of the preposition to other words. Prepositional Phrase Examples: along the path along (prep.) + the (article) + path (noun) = prepositional phrase amid torment amid (prep.) + torment (noun) = prepositional phrase throughout (the colorful garden) throughout (prep.) + the (article) + colorful (adj.) + garden (noun) = prepositional phrase Multiple prepositional phrases may exist within one larger prepositional phrase. Prepositional Phrase Examples: within all of the men within all + of the men = prepositional phrase by the lake in the forest by the lake + in the forest = prepositional phrase on the table at the restaurant on the table + at the restaurant = prepositional phrase Summary: What are Prepositions? Define preposition: To clarify, prepositions: show the relationship of a word to a noun or pronoun are almost always used in prepositional phrases sometimes begin subordinate conjunctions Prepositions are parts of speech that show relationships between words in a sentence. In "the book on the table," the preposition on shows the relationship between the book and the table. They often indicate where ("She walked through the park"), when ("We met at noon"), why ("He succeeded because of hard work"), or how something happens ("She completed the task with ease"). While some believe that ending a sentence with a preposition is incorrect, it is not actually a grammatical error. Many words and phrases require specific prepositions, so understanding their correct usage is essential for clear and natural communication. For example, we say "interested in" (not "interested on"). Prepositions play a key role in phrasal verbs and collocations, where changing the preposition can alter the meaning of a phrase entirely. For example, "look up" (search for information) and "look after" (take care of) have very different meanings. Prepositions are small but powerful words that help clarify relationships between different parts of a sentence. Here, we'll discuss how prepositions work, the different types of prepositions, and how to use them effectively in writing and speech. The AI writing assistant for anyone with work to do Table of contents What is a preposition? List of prepositions Types of prepositions Ending a sentence with a preposition Unnecessary prepositions Other uses of prepositions Prepositions FAQs What is a preposition? Prepositions are small words that describe relationships with other words in a sentence, such as where something took place ("in a park) or when ("at noon"). Prepositions combine with other words to form a prepositional phrase. Preposition: to Prepositional phrase: to the moon These prepositional phrases can describe nouns ("the cat on the shelf") or verbs ("run through the grass"). Although you can place prepositional phrases in different places, it's best to put them close to the word they describe. Each prepositional phrase must contain a noun, known as the object of a preposition. The prepositional phrase often includes a determiner with the object, like the articles the, a, or an. Sometimes, the object also has its own adjective, like "on the wooden table." List of prepositions Below is a list of commonly used prepositions, organized alphabetically: A: aboard, about, above, absent, across, after, against, along, alongside, amid (or "amidst"), among (or "amongst"), around, as, at, atop B: bar (or "barring"), before, behind, below, beneath, beside (or "besides"), between, beyond, but, by C: circa, concerning, counting D: despite, down, during E: effective, except (or "excepting"), excluding F: falling, following, for, from I: in, including, inside, into L: less, like M: minus N: near, next, notwithstanding O: of, off, on, onto, opposite, out, outside, over P: past, pending, per, plus R: regarding, respecting S: short, since T: than, through, throughout, to, toward (or "towards") U: under, underneath, unlike, until, up, upon V: versus (or "vs.") via W: wanting, with, within, without worth Prepositions may be small, but they can be confusing. Grammarly can check your grammar and punctuation to ensure you're using prepositions correctly in your writing. Types of prepositions People categorize prepositions in different ways, and there is no official grouping. However, the most common prepositions fit into four main categories, with a fifth category for additional types. Keep in mind that a preposition can have more than one meaning, and sometimes, the same preposition belongs to more than one type. Here are the main types of prepositions. Prepositions of place Prepositions of place show where something is or where something happened. The objects of prepositions of place can refer to a specific location or describe a location in relation to another thing, such as "under the table." They're building an amusement park near my apartment. Today I'm cleaning the dust above the refrigerator. The health food is between the snacks and the sodas. I have a sandwich in my bag. Meet me at the restaurant. Prepositions of time Prepositions of time show when something happened or will happen (and sometimes its duration). They always describe verbs, such as when the verb's action occurs. We have to be ready at 5:00 pm. Don't eat before bedtime. I suddenly get energy after the sun sets. Our teacher fell asleep during recess. Your homework is due by Monday. Prepositions of direction or movement Prepositions of direction or movement show how something is moving or which way it's going. For example, in the sentence "The dog ran in a circle," the prepositional phrase "in a circle" describes how it ran instead of where it ran. These prepositions are usually used with verbs of motion. The defense recovered the fumble and ran across the entire field. The baby took her first steps toward her mother. My daydreaming friend walked into a river! It's easier to go through the woods than around the woods. He shot the basketball over his opponent's head. Prepositions of manner, cause, or purpose Prepositions of manner, cause, or purpose show how or why something happens, such as describing the way or the reasons something occurred. This includes descriptions of feelings or opinions, as well as comparisons. When I'm late my dad takes me to school by car. She drives like a maniac. He only competes for honor, not money. Everyone was eating in silence. Ava reads with difficulty if she isn't wearing her glasses. Additional types of prepositions Prepositions can show many other relationships, but they're not as common as the four types of prepositions above. Let's look at some other, less common types of prepositions you can use. Prepositions of possession show ownership or describe a trait someone possesses. The most common preposition of possession is of, but with can also be used to describe a distinguishing trait. The tree of our neighbor drops fruit in our yard. I'm going to adopt the dog with black spots. Prepositions of source explain where something came from or who created it, typically using from or by. The message is from outer space! That hole was made by a mouse. Prepositions of measurement refer specifically to quantities and amounts, usually with units of measurement. The most common are by and of. Likewise, fractions and percentages use the preposition of when describing what they're part of. Start the recipe with a cup of flour. The boardwalk sells taffy by the yard! More than 59% of the world's population lives in Asia. Ending a sentence with a preposition The old claim that it's wrong to end a sentence with a preposition has been debunked. It's not true now and it never was true. In other words, ending a sentence with a preposition is perfectly fine. Writers who insist that a preposition can't end a sentence often end up with stilted and unnatural-sounding sentences: There's no one else to hide behind. (Correct and natural) There's no one else behind whom to hide. (Correct but unnatural) Where did you come from? (Correct and natural) From where did you come? (Correct but unnatural) That said, it is sometimes more elegant to move a preposition to an earlier spot in a sentence, especially in very serious and formal writing. But if you do move the preposition, remember to delete it from the end. This is something we must meditate on. This is something on which we must meditate. This is something on which we must meditate on. Unnecessary prepositions One of the most common preposition mistakes is adding an unnecessary at to the end of a question. Where is your brother at? Although this is common in some English dialects, it's considered nonstandard in writing. You can fix the problem by simply deleting the at. Where is your brother? If you're not sure which preposition to use, sometimes you can just get rid of it altogether. In fact, you should always eliminate unnecessary prepositional phrases, as too many can be a sign of unfocused writing. Look at how many prepositions appear in the sentence below: For many people, the reality of an entry into a new area of employment is cause for a host of anxieties. Getting rid of the prepositions forces you to tighten up the sentence. The result is shorter, more direct, and easier to understand: Changing careers makes many people anxious. Here's another example: Alex hit the baseball up over the fence. Remove the up. You don't need it: Alex hit the baseball over the fence. Other uses of prepositions Sometimes, prepositions are combined with other parts of speech to form phrases with entirely new meanings. These phrases don't act like prepositional phrases, and they take on different functions and usages in a sentence. Prepositions in phrasal verbs A phrasal verb is a group of words that together act as a single verb with a unique meaning. For example, the phrasal verb go out has a different meaning than the words go and out. Often, phrasal verbs combine an existing verb with a preposition. If you're new to prepositions, pay close attention to phrasal verbs. While some prepositions can be interchangeable in general use, the meaning of a phrasal verb always depends on a specific preposition. Changing the preposition can completely alter the meaning of the phrase. For example, the prepositions on and over can sometimes mean the same thing, such as on the stove and over the stove. But the phrasal verbs come on and come over have very different meanings. When using phrasal verbs, make sure you're using the correct preposition and treat each verb as its own word. Collocation In linguistics, collocation is just a fancy word to describe words that are commonly used together. In English, we have certain phrases or ways of talking that use specific prepositions; even if a different preposition has the same meaning, it would sound weird to use it. Prepositional collocations can be tricky for people whose first language isn't English and even for those who have spoken English their entire lives. Here are a few common phrases in English that use specific prepositions, at last at once by chance by mistake charge for comment on commit to focus on for a change for example in advance in common in danger in particular insist on interest in memory of on purpose on time out of reach preference for protect from responsible for subscribe to without fail Prepositions FAQs What are prepositions? Prepositions are small words that describe relationships with other words in a sentence, such as where something took place (in a park) or when (at noon). Prepositions can be combined with other words to form a prepositional phrase. What are the types of prepositions? People categorize prepositions in different ways, but the most common types are: Prepositions of time Prepositions of place Prepositions of direction or movement Prepositions of manner, cause, or purpose Less common but still relevant are prepositions of possession, prepositions of source, and prepositions of measurement. What are some preposition examples? Prepositions of place include above, at, besides, between, in, near, on, and under. Prepositions of time include after, at, before, by, during, in, on, and until. Prepositions of direction or movement include across, around, into, onto, over, through, to, and toward (towards). Prepositions of manner, cause, or purpose include by, in, for, like, and with. Can you end a sentence with a preposition? Yes! In fact, sometimes it's better to end a sentence with a preposition than to rearrange all the words. The idea that this is a mistake is a myth. Are prepositions capitalized in titles? While different style guides have different rules for capitalization in titles, most generally agree that short prepositions in titles should be lowercase unless they are the first or last word. For example, For Whom the Bell Tolls and Lord of the Flies are both correct. Your writing, at its best.Works on all your favorite websitesRelated Articles Looking for a list of prepositions? Look no further. You've definitely encountered prepositions before, even if you didn't know that that's what they were called. They are connector words that are very frequently used in the English language. Some students learn a preposition song (to the tune of "Yankee Doodle") to memorize many of the prepositions, but there are more than you might expect. You can find a comprehensive preposition list at the end of this article. First, let's learn more about these useful words: By definition, a preposition is a word used before a noun or pronoun to mark its relation to the rest of the sentence, such as "to" in "I went to the beach." Here is a list of prepositions that are most common. They refer to movement or placement, about/above/across/beneath/beyond/but concerning/considering/despite/except/following/like/minus/next/onto/opposite/outside/over/past/per/plus/regarding/round/savesince/than/through/till/toward/underneath/unlike/until/upon/versus/via/with/within/without/are any prepositions missing from the list? Get all volumes of The Farlex Grammar Book in paperback or eBook. Share Tweet A preposition is a word—and almost always a very small, very common word—that shows direction, location, or time, or that introduces an object. I sent a letter to you. (To is a preposition showing direction) Someone is at the door. (At is a preposition showing location) My (By is a preposition showing time) She brought a basket of apples. (Of is a preposition introducing the object, apples) Prepositions are typically followed by an object, which can be a noun (noon), a noun phrase (the door), or a pronoun (you). There is nothing wrong with ending a sentence in a preposition like to, with, for, or at. English speakers have been doing so since the days of Old English. The people who claim that a terminal preposition is wrong are clinging to an idea born in the 17th century and that has been largely abandoned by grammar and usage experts for more than a hundred years. Here are some examples of a sentence written with a preposition (about) at the end, and with the preposition moved to the middle. Read them out loud and you can hear how the preposition works better at the end of the sentence. This is the fake grammar rule that I was telling you about. This is the fake grammar rule about which I was telling you. Other parts of speech: What is an adjective? What is an adverb? What is a noun? What is a verb?