

# LEARNING ABOUT PREPOSITIONS

1

## ***What are prepositions?***

Prepositions tell us the time, direction or location of something.

**Billy walks to school.**

**Billy puts on his coat.**

**Billy sits in class.**

2

What sort of prepositions are there?

Prepositions come in three types:

### ***Prepositions of time***

<b>At</b>	School starts <b>at</b> 9 o'clock.
<b>On</b>	The holidays start <b>on</b> Monday.
<b>In</b>	We will be leaving <b>in</b> 10 minutes.
<b>For</b>	Mary-Jane waited <b>for</b> half an hour.
<b>From</b>	Billy was kept in <b>from</b> 3.30 till 4.00 for being naughty.
<b>Since</b>	They have lived there <b>since</b> 2005.
<b>Until</b>	I am staying home <b>until</b> I get over this cold.
<b>After</b>	We are meeting <b>after</b> school.
<b>During</b>	<b>During</b> the summer, we like to go to the beach.

### ***Pic of Billy being naughty***

RULE: The preposition must always be directly connected to a noun or number (which expresses the time). ('After school' really means 'after the end of school').

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### ***Prepositions of direction***

<b>To</b>	We are going <b>to</b> the park to kick the football.
<b>From</b>	Thui is <b>from</b> Vietnam.
<b>Off</b>	We are just about to take <b>off</b> .
<b>Out of</b>	Coming <b>out of</b> school, we met our friends.
<b>Towards</b>	Let's walk <b>towards</b> the shops.
<b>Into</b>	Let's go <b>into</b> class early.
<b>Onto</b>	Billy accepted the dare and climbed <b>onto</b> the roof.

<b>Up</b>	Going <b>up</b> in a lift is very exciting.
<b>Down</b>	Come <b>down</b> this minute!
<b>Along</b>	While strolling <b>along</b> the jetty we saw some dolphins.
<b>Across</b>	Walking <b>across</b> the road requires real concentration.
<b>Over</b>	Let's go <b>over</b> to the shops, and get some food.
<b>Round</b>	Running <b>round</b> the corner, Billy ran into the teacher.
<b>Through</b>	To travel <b>through</b> time would be very interesting.

*Pic of Billy on the roof*

HINT: The prepositions ‘up’, ‘down’ and ‘off’ can be used on their own (without an explanatory noun). All other prepositions in this list must have a noun or pronoun (to which they refer).

4

*Prepositions of location*

<b>In</b>	There is lots of food <b>in</b> the pantry.
<b>Inside</b>	Come <b>inside</b> and have a drink.
<b>Outside</b>	We are meeting <b>outside</b> the school gates.
<b>Over</b>	The car drove <b>over</b> the bridge.
<b>Above</b>	A plane is flying high <b>above</b> us.
<b>Below</b>	The wreck is <b>below</b> the bridge.
<b>Between</b>	Their house is <b>between</b> the park and the school.
<b>Under</b>	Don't stand <b>under</b> a tree during a storm.
<b>Behind</b>	The school is <b>behind</b> my house.
<b>In front of</b>	There's a good parking spot <b>in front of</b> the school.
<b>Opposite</b>	Her place is <b>opposite</b> the school.
<b>Near</b>	In winter, it's nice to sit <b>near</b> a good fire.
<b>At</b>	We are meeting <b>at</b> the bus stop.
<b>On</b>	The food is <b>on</b> the table.
<b>On top of</b>	The keys are <b>on top of</b> the fridge.
<b>Out</b>	The garbage bin is just <b>out</b> the back door.
<b>Out of</b>	It's time to take the cake <b>out of</b> the oven.
<b>By</b>	We walked <b>by</b> the shop today, but it was closed.
<b>With</b>	We have a new car <b>with</b> a sunroof.

*Pic of Billy standing under a tree*

HINT: The prepositions ‘inside’, ‘outside’ and ‘opposite’ can be used with or without explanatory words (The park is opposite.). All other prepositions in this list must have a noun or pronoun (to which they refer).

Because prepositions are **dependent** on other words in the sentence to give them sense, they cannot be used on their own. They should **not** be put at the end of the sentence.

**RULE: Do *not* put a preposition at the end of a sentence.**

Here is why.

Child: What did you bring that book that I don't like to be read to out of up for? (*Pic of child confronting adult with book*)

Such a sentence is incredibly confusing because all the prepositions are all jumbled up.

***Unnecessary prepositions***

Most people find prepositions easy enough to use. But there are a few common mistakes, which should be avoided. Here they are:

The book fell off **of** the table.

Wrong! The 'of' is unnecessary and repetitive.

The book fell off the table.

Where did she go **to**?

Wrong! The 'to' is clumsy (it is implied anyway by the verb go).

Where did she go?

Where is your house **at**?

Wrong! The 'at' is US slang, and grammatically incorrect.

Where is your house?

I met **up with** the new girl at recess.

Wrong! The two prepositions together are awkward.

I met the new girl at recess.