

GARUD ZEP ACADEMY

ENGLISH

PREPOSITION BASIC PART-1

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Kinds of Preposition

Prepositions are mainly classified into four categories:

(1) Simple Prepositions:

As in: At, in, for, from, of, off, on, out, till, to, up, with, through, down, by etc. These are single-word and commonly used Prepositions.

(2) Compound Prepositions: These Prepositions are formed by compounding a prefix (like 'a-' or 'be-') with a Noun, Adjective, or Adverb.

As in: about, along, amidst, among, aloud, beside, below, beneath, between, beyond, inside, outside, within, without, underneath

(3) Phrasal Prepositions: Prepositions formed by combining two or more words are called Phrasal Prepositions.

As in: along with, because of, by means of, for the sake of, in favour of, in accordance with, in addition to, in place of, in case of, in spite of, in course of, owing to, with reference to, in comparison to/ with, regard to, instead of, in respect to, according to.

(4) Participle Prepositions: When a Present Participle is used in a sentence without a Noun/Pronoun directly attached to it, the Present Participle functions like a Preposition.

As in: Concerning, Pending, Regarding, Considering, Touching etc.

- (a) Pending enquiry into the matter, he was transferred from the office.
- (b) Considering the quality, the prices are reasonable.

Some Important Prepositions

(1) At / In / On

These are very commonly used Prepositions. Note the use of these prepositions in reference to **"Time"**:

- **'At'**: is used for a Precise Time.
at 3 O'clock, at 10:30 am, at noon, at dinner time, at bed time, at sunrise, at sunset, at the moment
- **'In'**: is used for Months, Years, Centuries and Long Periods.
*in May, in summer, in the summer, in 1990, in the 1990s, in the next century, in the Ice Age, in the past/
future*

- **'On'**: is used for Days and Dates.

on Sunday, on Tuesday, on 6th March, on 25th January, 2007, on Christmas Day, on Independence Day, on my birthday, on New Year's Eve

Exercise:

1. I have a meeting ----- 10 am.
2. That shop closes ----- midnight.
3. Richa went home ----- lunch time.
4. Do you think we will go to Saturn ----- the future?
5. There should be a lot of progress ----- the next century.
6. Where will you be ----- Independence Day?
7. Do you work ----- Sundays?
8. Her birthday is ----- 26th April.

Note the use of the Preposition of time **'at'** in the following expressions:

- at night
- at the weekend
- at Christmas/Easter
- at the same time
- at present

Questions:

- The stars shine ---- night.
- I don't usually work ----- the weekend.
- I stay with my family ----- Christmas.
- We finished the test ----- the same time.

Note the use of the Preposition of time **'in'** and **'on'** in these common expressions:

In	On
in the morning / in the mornings	on Tuesday morning
in the afternoon(s)	on Saturday mornings
in the evening(s)	on Sunday afternoons
	on Monday evening

Note: 'At', 'In', or 'On' is NOT used with words like last, next, every. For example:

1. I went to Mexico -- last May. (*not in last May*)
2. He's coming back ----- next Sunday (*not on next Sunday*)
3. I go home ----- every Easter. (*not at every Easter*)
4. We'll call you ----- this evening. (*not in this evening*)

Note the use of these Prepositions in reference to "**Place**":

- **At:** is used for a POINT.
- **In:** is used for an Enclosed SPACE.
- **On:** is used for a SURFACE.

At (POINT)	In (ENCLOSED SPACE)	On (SURFACE)
at the corner	in the garden	on the wall
at the bus stop	in Delhi	on the ceiling
at the door	in India	on the door
at the top of the page	in a box	on the cover
at the end of the road	in my pocket	on the floor
at the entrance	in my wallet	on the carpet
at the crossroads	in a building / in a car	on the menu / on a page

Questions:

1. Ruma is waiting for you _____ the bus stop.
2. The shop is _____ the end of the lane.
3. When will you arrive _____ the school?
4. I live on the 4th floor _____ 21 Diamond Street
5. Do you work _____ a company?
6. I have a meeting _____ Delhi.
7. Do you live _____ India?
8. Saturn is _____ the Solar System.
9. The author's name is _____ Kolkata.
10. There are no prices _____ the cover of the book.
11. You are standing _____ my foot.
12. There was a 'no smoking' sign _____ this menu.

Note: These three Prepositions are most commonly used in writing and speaking, so the students must learn the use of these Prepositions very well.

(2) At / In / To / Into

- **(A)** 'At' is used for a stationary/static state, while 'In' is used for a dynamic/moving state. As in:
 - (1) She is _____ home.
 - (2) The train is _____ motion.
- **(B)** 'At' is used for smaller places, and 'In' is used for larger places. As in:
 - (1) He lives _____ Alwar in Rajasthan.
 - (2) A temple is situated at Madurai _____ Tamil Nadu.
- **(C)** 'At' is used for a Point of time, and 'In' is used for a Period of time. As in:
 - (1) The train will arrive _____ 6 am in the morning.
 - (2) He will meet you _____ the morning.
- **(D) In/Into:** 'In' is used when something is already inside, whereas 'Into' is used to show motion/movement inward. As in:
 - (1) There are three students _____ the class.
 - (2) He jumped _____ the river.
- **(E) To/Into:** Both denote movement. They are used according to the contextual meaning of the sentence. 'To' implies destination/direction, while 'Into' implies inside. As in:
 - (1) He went _____ market.
 - (2) He jumped _____ the well.

(3) On / To / Onto

- **Use of 'On' for time:**

- (1) He will come _____ Monday.
- (2) Ram will go _____ 4th June.

- **Use of 'To' for place:**

- (1) He will go _____ Delhi.
- (2) Ram will go _____ market tomorrow.

- **On/Onto:**

On: can be used for both stationary states and movement. As in:

- (1) Snow fell _____ the hills.
- (2) He is sitting _____ his suitcase.

Onto: is primarily used for movement when a change in level/surface is expressed. As in:

- (1) People climbed _____ their roofs.
- (2) He lifted her _____ the table.

(4) With / By

'With' is used for an instrument/tool, and 'By' is used for an agent (doer). As in:

- (1) The snake was killed _____ him with a stick.
- (2) The letter was written by Suresh _____ a pencil.

(5) Since / For / From

- 'Since' is used in the Perfect Tense.

- 'For' is used in the Perfect Tense as well as other tenses to denote a 'period of time'.

- **Use of 'Since' for a Point of time:** As in: *Since 6 o'clock/Last night/Last Monday/Since Morning/Evening/ Monday/January/2004 etc.*

- **Use of 'For' for a period of time:** As in: *for two hours/two days/two years/a long time/some time etc.*

- **'From' is used to denote an action starting from a point of time.** 'From' is not used in the Perfect Tense, but is used in other tenses. As in:

- (1) He will go to college _____ next Monday.
- (2) It has been raining _____ two hours.
- (3) It has been raining since 2 o'clock.
- (4) He worked _____ three hours.

- **'From' is also used for a place/origin.** As in:

- (a) He is _____ Mumbai.
- (b) Where do you come _____ ?

(6) For / During

'For' is generally used for a 'period of time', while 'During' is used in the sense of 'throughout/in the course of' an event. As in:

- (1) He has been ill _____ three days.
- (2) It rained all Sunday, but stopped _____ the night.
- *As in: During childhood, during middle ages, during holidays, during summer vacations; for a month, for three days, for 15 years etc.*

'For' also means 'for the sake of / purpose', so according to the meaning, 'for' can be used as follows:

- (1) I went there _____ summer vacations.
- (2) I rented my car _____ the summer only.

(7) Below / Under

Both mean 'lower than'. Generally, 'Under' implies physical contact or vertical alignment with the object, while 'Below' does not imply direct contact. As in:

- (a) He placed the lamp _____ the almirah.
- (b) He put the books _____ the pillow.

'Under' also means 'Junior' in rank:

- (a) He is working under me. Or He is under me.

'Below' is also used in reference to dignity or standards. As in:

- (a) It is _____ his dignity to beg for mercy.

(8) In / Within

- **'In'** signifies the end point of a given period. It refers to the total duration taken to complete an action.
- **'Within'** signifies 'inside the limit'. It expresses a strict 'time limit'. 'Within' is used when there is a likelihood of the action being completed before the time limit ends. As in:
 - (a) I will complete the work in a month.
 - (b) I can repair the car within two hours.
 - (c) He will write a book in three months.
 - (d) He can solve this question within an hour.

(9) Ago / Before

'Ago' is used for past events relative to the present time, while 'Before' is used in reference to sequential past actions/events. As in:

- (a) He came three days _____
- (b) The train had left _____ he reached the station.

(10) Beside / Besides

- **Beside** means 'next to' or 'by the side of'.
- **Besides** means 'in addition to'. As in:
 - (a) He was sitting _____ Sarla.
 - (b) He has a car _____ a motor cycle.

(11) Between / Among

- **Between** is generally used when referring to two distinct persons or things.
- **Among** is used when referring to more than two persons or things.
 - (1) He distributed his property _____ his two sons.
 - (2) He distributed his property _____ the poor.
- 'Between' can be used for more than two when they are closely or mutually associated (reciprocal relationships). As in:
 - (1) A treaty was signed _____ three parties.
 - (2) He inserted a needle _____ the close petals of a flower.

(12) Among / Amongst

Both are used when referring to more than two. If followed by the word 'the', either 'Among' or 'Amongst' can be used. However, if followed by a word starting with a vowel sound, 'Amongst' is preferred. Note that the use of 'Amongst' is less common today. As in:

- (a) He distributed the toffees _____ the poor.
- (b) He distributed the toffees _____ us.

Between, Among, Amid

- '**Among**' is used for more than two persons or things/plural nouns
- '**Amid**' is used for more than two persons or things/plural nouns/uncountable (abstract noun)
- '**Between**' is used only for two / also for fixed digit - three, four, five

Q.1 The grandfather (A)/ brought the chocolates (B)/ and distributed (C)/ them between (D)/ his children (E)/.

(IBPS CLERK PRE 2023)

Use appropriate prepositions:

1. I lost my key the confusion at the end of the party.
2. He spent a year living monks at the temple.
3. We parked our car two Ferraris.
4. They chose to cancel our project growing concern about the company's budget.
5. We saw a dog the people in the crowd.

(13) Of / Off

Of is a preposition used to establish a relationship or connection, while **Off** indicates separation, detachment, or moving away. As in:

- (1) He is a member of our family.
- (2) She is a member of our society.
- (3) He is off duty now.
- (4) He jumped off the tower.

(14) Above / Over

Both mean 'higher than'. In many situations, either can be used interchangeably. As in:

- (a) The helicopter is hovering above/over us.
- (b) Flags were waved above/over our heads.

Over is used in several distinct senses, such as: Covering, on the other side of, or across. As in:

- (1) I put a cloth over her.
- (2) There is a bridge over the railway line.
- (3) He put a blanket over the dead body.
- (4) He lives over this mountain.

'Over' can also be used when talking about an activity happening during a meal/tea/lunch/drink etc. As in:

- (a) We had a chat over a cup of tea.
- (b) The matter was decided over the lunch.

But 'Above' is not used in the aforementioned culinary/activity contexts. **above** can also mean 'earlier' or 'previously' mentioned. As in:

- (1) He lives at the above address.

(15) Make of / Make from

Both signify the source material used to build or create something.

- **Make of** is used when the material undergoes a physical change but its basic essence/state remains recognizable. As in:
 - (a) A note book is made of paper.
 - (b) A house is made of brick.
- **Make from** is used when the material undergoes a complete transformation or chemical change into a completely new state. As in:
 - (a) Butter is made from milk.
 - (b) Paper is made from grass.

(16) Round / Around

Q1. Fill in the blanks with appropriate prepositions:

1. They were sitting _____ the garden.
2. The earth moves _____ the sun.

(17) Across, Along, Through

- **(A) Across:** means from one side to the other side of something. (*We use over rather than across when we talk about reaching the other side of something, which is higher than it is wide.*)
- **(B) Along:** means from one end towards the other. It also means close to or parallel with.
- **(C) Through:** refers to movements in a three-dimensional space to the other.

Test your knowledge:

1. The ball rolled _____ the lawn.
2. The bus came towards them _____ the bridge.
3. He pushed his way _____ the crowd of people to get to her.
4. She walked _____ the forest to get to her friend's house.
5. He jumped _____ the wall.
6. They walked _____ the footpath.
7. They are planning to go for a picnic _____ the river bank.