

## Prepositions

**Prepositions** are words used *before* nouns (objects and subjects) to describe a relationship between parts of a sentence. Choosing the right preposition is essential to making the meaning of each sentence clear to the reader.

Preposition	Use	Sentence Level Example
in	To demonstrate that the noun is within, inside, or surrounded by something else.	Roger kept his money <u>in</u> his wallet.
on	1) To demonstrate that the noun is positioned upon the surface or top of something. 2) To establish the concern or topic of a work.	1) Jafari had left the keys <u>on</u> the kitchen counter. 2) He had written <u>on</u> Indigenous issues in his third year at university.
at	To establish a point, location, or time of arrival or meeting.	Greg met his colleague <u>at</u> the Chinese restaurant.
to	1) To express motion or direction towards the noun. 2) To explain the purpose of something.	1) Denise gave directions <u>to</u> the stranger. 2) Chung bought his date flowers <u>to</u> impress her.
into	To express direction resulting in the noun being inside, surrounded by, or in contact with something.	Vaani opened the passenger door and got <u>into</u> the car.
of	To express a relationship between a part and a whole.	King's University College is an affiliate college <u>of</u> Western.
from	To indicate the source of something (such as an object, action, or trait).	Pauline received the necklace <u>from</u> her mother.
for	To indicate the purpose, goal, or recipient of something.	Viktor made the card <u>for</u> his grandfather.
by	1) To establish that the noun is beside something else. 2) To signify authorship of a work.	1) They had a picnic <u>by</u> the river. 2) The novel <i>Pride and Prejudice</i> was written <u>by</u> Jane Austen.
before	To establish a period of time preceding an event or occurrence.	Climate change needs to be addressed <u>before</u> irreparable damage is done.
after	To establish a period of time following an event or occurrence.	Bill went to the bar <u>after</u> work.
until	To establish a point in time in which something will change (or has changed).	I had never tried sushi <u>until</u> now.

than	To compare two different things.	She believed Aldous Huxley's novel <i>Brave New World</i> was more prophetic <u>than</u> George Orwell's <i>1984</i> .
above	To indicate that something is at a higher level than something else (↑).	She needed an average <u>above</u> 80% to get into grad school.
below	To indicate that something is at a lower level than something else (↓).	He watched the sun set <u>below</u> the horizon.
between	To indicate that something is within a space or range (separated by two boundaries or periods of time) (→*←).	There had been 613 robberies reported in London <u>between</u> 2016 and 2019.
since	1) To establish a period of time between a past event or period and another (often the present). 2) To explain a reason (or many reasons) for something.	1) Fabio hadn't seen her <u>since</u> the wedding. 2) She felt that, <u>since</u> the governor had publicly acknowledged his involvement in the scandal, he ought to have been impeached.
during	To establish that an occurrence is happening (or happens) within a particular period of time.	The professor was annoyed by students who talked <u>during</u> his lectures.
about	1) To establish the concern or topic of something. 2) To demonstrate that something is approximately a specified amount (in number or quantity).	1) Kareem had read <u>about</u> the exploitation of food service workers in an essay. 2) The hike was <u>about</u> 3 to 5 kilometers in length.
like	1) To demonstrate similarity between two or more things. 2) To introduce an example of something.	1) Ziplining through the jungle, she almost felt <u>like</u> she was flying. 2) He wanted to travel to a city with beautiful architecture, <u>like</u> Rome or Dubai.
with	1) To demonstrate that something is accompanied by a person or thing. 2) To establish a quality that something has.	1) He attended the party <u>with</u> his friend Theo. 2) On her morning walk, she passed a dog <u>with</u> shaggy fur.
through	To describe movement from one side or part of something to another.	The siblings had to walk <u>through</u> the shadowy forest to get back home.
near	1) To demonstrate that something is close to something else. 2) To demonstrate that something is almost a certain quality.	1) His grandmother's cottage was built <u>near</u> Lake Huron. 2) The replica he had made of the Taj Mahal was <u>near</u> perfect.
as	1) To establish a characteristic or quality something has. 2) To demonstrate that something took place during a specified period of time.	1) I didn't think the sequel was <u>as</u> good as the original film. 2) She frequently rebelled against her parents <u>as</u> a young woman.

**More on Prepositions:**

*The Little Seagull Handbook* (3<sup>rd</sup> Edition), pp. 366-7

OWL Purdue: [https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/general\\_writing/grammar/prepositions/index.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/general_writing/grammar/prepositions/index.html)

A resource created by Tristin Barker for



<https://kings.uwo.ca/writeplace>