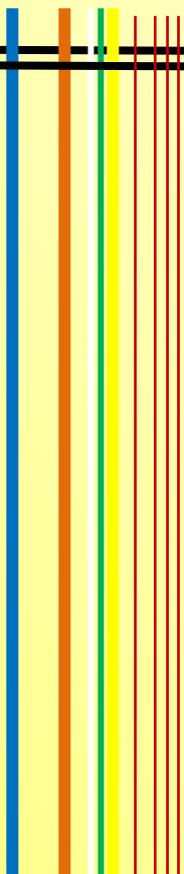
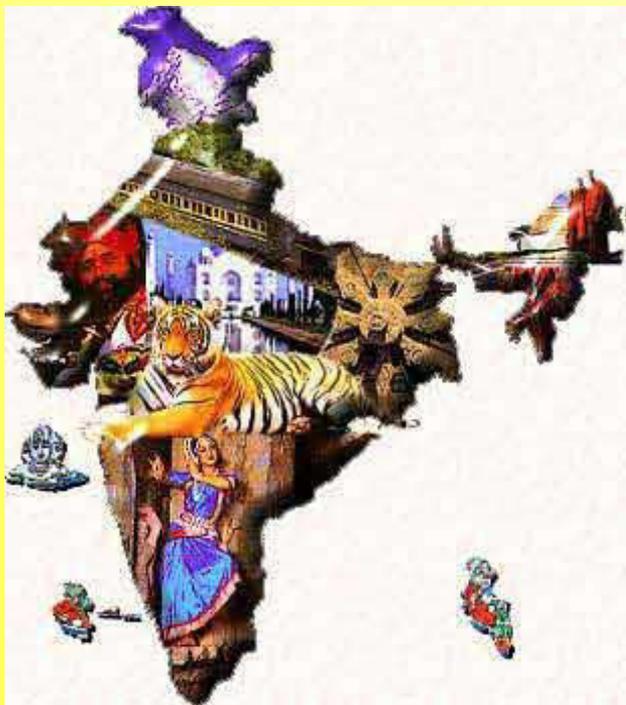


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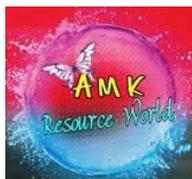
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Preposition

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Preposition

A preposition describes A RELATIONSHIP between other words in a sentence. In itself, a word like "in" or "after" is rather meaningless and hard to define in mere words. For instance, when you do try to define a preposition like "in" or "between" or "on," you invariably use your hands to show how something is situated in relationship to something else. Prepositions are nearly always combined with other words in structures called **prepositional phrases**. Prepositional phrases can be made up of a million different words, but they tend to be built the same: a preposition followed by a **determiner** and an adjective or two, followed by a pronoun or noun (called the *object* of the preposition). This whole phrase, in turn, takes on a modifying role, acting as an **adjective** or an **adverb**, locating something in time and space, modifying a noun, or telling when or where or under what conditions something happened.

There are hardly any rules as to when to use which preposition. The only way to learn prepositions is looking them up in dictionary, reading a lot in English (literature) and learning useful phrases off by heart

The following table contains rules for some of the most frequently used prepositions in English:

PREPOSITIONS – TIME

	Usage	Example
on	days of the week	on Monday
in	months / seasons	in August / in winter
	time of day	in the morning
	year	in 2006
	after a certain period of time (<i>when?</i>)	in an hour
at	for <i>night</i>	at night
	for <i>weekend</i>	at the weekend
	a certain point of time (<i>when?</i>)	at half past nine

since	from a certain point of time (past till now)	since 1980
for	over a certain period of time (past till now)	for 2 years
ago	a certain time in the past	2 years ago
before	earlier than a certain point of time	before 2004
to	telling the time	ten to six (5:50)
past	telling the time	ten past six (6:10)
to / till / until	marking the beginning and end of a period of time	from Monday to/till Friday
till / until	in the sense of <i>how long something is going to last</i>	He is on holiday until Friday.
by	in the sense of <i>at the latest</i> up to a certain time	I will be back by 6 o'clock. By 11 o'clock, I had read five pages.

PREPOSITIONS – PLACE (POSITION AND DIRECTION)

	Usage	Example
in	room, building, street, town, country book, paper etc. car, taxi picture, world	in the kitchen, in London in the book in the car, in a taxi in the picture, in the world
at	meaning <i>next to, by an object</i> for <i>table</i> for events place where you are to do something typical (watch a film, study, work)	at the door, at the station at the table at a concert, at the party at the cinema, at school, at work
on	attached for a place with a river being on a surface for a certain side (left, right) for a floor in a house for public transport for <i>television, radio</i>	the picture on the wall London lies on the Thames. on the table on the left on the first floor on the bus, on a plane on TV, on the radio
by, next to, beside	left or right of somebody or something	Jane is standing by / next to / beside the car.
under	on the ground, lower than (or covered)	the bag is under the table

	by) something else	
below	lower than something else but above ground	the fish are below the surface
over	covered by something else meaning <i>more than</i> getting to the other side (also <i>across</i>) overcoming an obstacle	put a jacket over your shirt over 16 years of age walk over the bridge climb over the wall
above	higher than something else, but not directly over it	a path above the lake
across	getting to the other side (also <i>over</i>) getting to the other side	walk across the bridge swim across the lake
through	something with limits on top, bottom and the sides	drive through the tunnel
to	movement to person or building movement to a place or country for <i>bed</i>	go to the cinema go to London / Ireland go to bed
into	enter a room / a building	go into the kitchen / the house
towards	movement in the direction of something (but not directly to it)	go 5 steps towards the house
onto	movement to the top of something	jump onto the table
from	in the sense of <i>where from</i>	a flower from the garden

OTHER IMPORTANT PREPOSITIONS

	Usage	Example
from	who gave it	a present from Jane
of	who/what does it belong to what does it show	a page of the book the picture of a palace
by	who made it	a book by Mark Twain
on	walking or riding on horseback entering a public transport vehicle	on foot, on horseback get on the bus
in	entering a car / Taxi	get in the car
off	leaving a public transport vehicle	get off the train
out of	leaving a car / Taxi	get out of the taxi
by	rise or fall of something travelling (other than walking or horseriding)	prices have risen by 10 percent by car, by bus

at	for <i>age</i>	she learned Russian at 45
about	for topics, meaning <i>what about</i>	we were talking about you

EXAMPLES

- He has coffee **in** the morning, tea **in** the afternoon and wine **in** the evening.
- I work **during** the morning/afternoon/evening/day/night.
- Let's meet **at** 6pm.
- The clock strikes twelve **at** midday/noon/midnight.
- The condemned man was shot **at** sunrise/dawn.
- The street lights come on **at** sunset/dusk.
- We can see the stars **at** night.
- There is a cup on the table.
- The helicopter hovered above the house.
- The police placed a sheet over the body.
- He stood in front of the door and rang the bell.
- Ram sat beside Tara in the cinema.
- A small stream runs below that bridge.
- He put the key under the doormat.
- He put his hands behind his back.

LIST OF PREPOSITIONS

aboard

- We climbed aboard the boat.
- Is there a doctor aboard the plane?

about

- What do you think about Mary?
- Let's talk about something different.
- I've just read a book about President Putin.
- The lion was pacing about its cage.

above

- We are flying above the clouds.
- We live in the hills, 1,000 metres above sea-level.
- It's only two degrees above freezing point. [+2°C]
- Who came above you in the test results?

across

- We drove across the desert.

- The dog ran across the road.
- There is a bridge across the river.
- She lives in the house across the street. It's nearly opposite mine.

after (also conjunction)

- We had lunch [1pm] after the meeting [11am].
- Let's meet the day after tomorrow.

against

- Did you vote for or against the suggestion?
- He put his bicycle against the wall.

along

- We walked along the beach for two miles.
- There are trees along the road.
- The toilet is along the corridor.

alongside

- Their boat came alongside our boat.
- Team A worked alongside Team B during construction.

amid | amidst (poetic)

- I couldn't hear her amid the noise.
- We were lost amidst the trees.

among | amongst (mainly British English)

- Is there a doctor among us?
- There were secret police among the crowd.
- I was amongst strangers. I didn't know anyone.

anti

- He seems to be anti my idea.
- Some people are anti everything.

around

- We walked around the town for an hour.
- They all sat around the camp fire.
- There is a big fence around the house.
- He was born around 1570.
- Let's meet around 7pm.

as (also conjunction)

- He is working as a waiter.
- The risk is as nothing compared to the profit.
- Ram is as tall as Anthony.

astride

- She sat astride the horse.

at

- He is at school.
- We first met at a party.
- Let's start the meeting at 9 o'clock.
- He started work at 17 (years of age).
- We are aiming at sales of \$1,000,000.

atop (*poetic*)

- The church is situated atop a hill.

according to

- According to John, Mary was late. I believe John.

ahead of

- Anthony is ahead of Rachel in the race. He'll win.
- We have a long day ahead of us. Let's get going!

along with

- Do you want some pork along with the chicken?

apart from

- Nobody objected apart from you, so we did it.

as for

- As for Matt, he will arrive later.

aside from

- I have another car aside from this one. Both are red.

as per

- We must work strictly as per the law.

as to

- As to your behaviour, I think you were wrong.

as well as

- You should telephone as well as write, just to be sure.

away from

- The cat ran away from the dog and escaped.

bar

- Everyone came bar Angela.
- He is the best bar none.

barring

- Barring rain, we'll play tennis tomorrow.

before (also conjunction)

- We had lunch [1pm] before the meeting [3pm].
- We met the day before yesterday.
- She was before me in the queue.
- I would rather die before doing that.

behind

- There is a police car behind us. It's following us.
- We have a garden behind our house.
- The child was hiding behind the tree.
- I am behind your project. I will support it.
- Vonica finished behind Shirley in the race.
- She is behind the other children in her class.

below

- Much of Holland is below sea-level.
- There is a family in the flat below us.
- The temperature is 5 degrees below freezing point. [-5°C]
- I came below Vonica in the test.
- You can buy it if it's below \$50.

beneath

- Our garage is beneath our house.
- The tunnel runs beneath the sea.
- Laurence is beneath the General Manager.
- It was beneath his dignity to do that.

beside

- The river runs beside our house.
- James was sitting beside Miriam.

besides

- What shall we have besides coffee?

between

- Tara was sitting between Ram and Ati.
- Between you and me, I think she's crazy.
- I can meet you between 1pm and 2pm.

beyond

- Can you see someone in the distance, beyond that house?
- This is too difficult. It's beyond me.
- The meeting continued beyond midnight.

but (also conjunction)

- Everyone came but Andrea.

by

- We came by car.
- Fireworks were invented by the Chinese.
- He was shot by a professional killer.
- It happened by accident.
- He lost the race by five seconds.
- The room is 10 metres by 6 metres.
- We must finish by Tuesday.
- We were sitting by the window.
- By my calculation he must be 73.

because of

- We can't play tennis because of the rain.

but for

- It's your fault! But for you, I'd have been on time.

by means of

- You open a door by means of its handle.

circa

- He died circa 1270.

concerning

- Your teacher talked to me concerning your homework.
- I have some questions concerning your decision.

considering

- Considering the poor quality, I think the price is too high.
- I think I must be going, considering the time.

counting

- There were four people, or five counting the baby.
- That makes \$70, not counting the tax.

cum

- I have a study-cum-bedroom.
- She is a kind of secretary-cum-receptionist.

close to

- My car is close to your car. About two cars away.

contrary to

- Contrary to expectations, the euro fell in value.

despite

- We went swimming despite the cold water.
- He passed the test despite being ill.

down

- They ran down the hill.
- The post office is down the road.
- They have had many wars down the years.

during

- He fell asleep during the meeting.
- I want to go swimming during the weekend.
- I was bored during the whole film.

depending on

- We'll play tennis tomorrow, depending on the rain.

due to

- The cancellation was due to the rain. There was no other reason

except

- You can have any colour except blue. There is no more blue.
- They all came except Stephen. He didn't want to come.

excepting

- I can eat anything excepting pork. It makes me sick.
- Excepting Jo, everyone was present. No-one knew where Jo was.

excluding

- It costs \$70, excluding \$10 for delivery. (Total = \$80.)
- We open every day excluding Christmas Day. On Christmas Day we have a holiday.

except for

- Everyone was present, except for Mary. She stayed at home

following

- We had coffee following lunch.
- He couldn't work following his illness.

for (*also conjunction*)

- This is for you.
- Do you want to go for a walk?
- You use a corkscrew for opening bottles.
- Cigarettes are bad for you.
- I'm saving for a new car.
- Is this the road for Rome?
- They passed me over for John.

- Is this the train for Cambridge?
- I bought it for \$10.
- We worked for three hours.
- Keep walking for two kilometres.

from

- Where do you come from?
- This letter is from my wife.
- I bought this car from Henry.
- They prevented me from entering.
- My car is different from yours.
- We worked from Monday to Wednesday.
- Paper is made from wood.
- It can cost anything from \$5 to \$15.
- The police took my driving licence from me.
- He died from overwork.

forward of

- He was sitting forward of me in the plane. I could just see the back of his head.

further to

- Further to your letter, I have spoken to Mr Brown.

given

- He is in very good health, given his age. He's at least 95.
- Given the time, you ought to leave now.

gone (*mainly* British English)

- It's certainly gone 11 o'clock. It must be 11.30.
- He's gone 50. He must be nearly 60 years old.

in

- Monkeys live in the jungle.
- John is the man with his hand in his pocket.
- I live in an apartment.
- She lives in Bangkok.
- Tara was born in 1977.
- Trains were invented in the nineteenth century.
- I'll come back in two weeks.
- Let's meet in the morning.
- There are 60 seconds in a minute.

including

- The price is \$70 including \$10 for delivery. (Total = \$70.)
- There were four of us, including the baby.

inside

- It was dark inside the tunnel.
- My modem is inside my computer. It's an internal modem.

into

- John went into that shop.
- If you heat ice it turns into water.
- We cut the cake into ten pieces.
- Five into ten makes two.

in addition to

- There were two people in addition to me. So that made three of us.

in between

- He is in between the two opinions. He wants to compromise.

in case of

- You can phone me in case of need. Day or night.

in face of

- He reacts bravely in face of danger.

in favour of

- I am not in favour of your idea. It won't work.

in front of

- You can park your car in front of my house.
- I couldn't see the film because the woman in front of me was wearing a big hat.

in lieu of

- I don't have any dollars. Can I pay euro in lieu of dollars?

in spite of

- We went swimming in spite of the cold water.

instead of

- We don't have any tea. Would you like coffee instead of tea?

in view of

- In view of your illness, we will wait for a week.

less

- 10 less 3 = 7.

like

- She is like her sister.
- She sings like a bird.

- It's not like John to complain.
- Do it like this.
- I feel like swimming.
- It looks like rain.
- I want something cold, like iced-coffee.

minus

- 10 minus 3 = 7.
- The temperature is minus 30 degrees centigrade.

near

- The school is near the post office.
- It's 20 December. We are very near Christmas Day.

notwithstanding

- Notwithstanding the low price, I don't want it.
- They went swimming, notwithstanding the rain.
- They went swimming, the rain notwithstanding.

near to

- There is a restaurant near to my office. Just two minutes away.

next to

- The school is next to the bank. Between the hotel and the bank

of

- I live in the house at the end of the road.
- Where is the key of the car?
- Do you like the work of Shakespeare?
- What was the cost of this book?
- He lives in the City of Westminster.
- It was kind of you to help me.
- This is the cause of the problem.
- He died of cancer.
- Most tables are made of wood.
- Can I have a cup of coffee?
- I know some of these people.
- I don't know any of these people.
- He lives south of London.
- He lives in the south of London.

off

- Please take your shoes off the table.
- Keep off the grass.

- It fell off the table and broke.
- They live in a street off Fifth Avenue.

on

- Please don't put your shoes on the table.
- The picture is on page 7.
- We live on a busy road. It's very noisy.
- She is sunbathing on the beach.
- Is there water on the Moon?
- I need a book on bio-chemistry.
- My birthday is on Monday.
- I start work on 7 May.
- Let's meet on the weekend. (American English)
- I'll see you on Christmas Day.
- You must be on time.
- He broke his leg on getting out of the car.

onto

- The cat jumped onto the chair.
- The police are onto us. (slang)

opposite

- There is a post office opposite my house.
- She sat opposite him and looked into his eyes.

outside

- I don't live in London. I live outside London.
- It was very cold outside the car.
- This is outside my scope.

over

- We are flying over the mountains.
- Put the blanket over the bed.
- The cat jumped over the wall.
- Let's discuss it over dinner.
- The king ruled over the country for many years.
- The town is just over the border.
- It cost over \$50. It was \$53.25.
- There is rain over the whole country.
- It took over an hour to do my homework.
- The population has increased over the past twenty years.
- Can you stay with us over Christmas?

on account of

- Don't worry on account of me. Think about yourself.

on behalf of

- I'm calling you on behalf of Mr Brown. I represent him in legal matters.

on board

- Is there a doctor on board this plane?

on to

- The cat jumped on to the chair.

on top of

- The cat is sitting on top of the television.

opposite to

- There is a tree opposite to the house. Straight across the road.

other than

- Sorry, we're out of whisky. But we have every drink other than whisky.

out of

- Take your hands out of your pockets and help me!
- He went out of the room to smoke a cigarette.
- We're out of eggs. Shall I buy some?

outside of

- They stopped outside of the city to check the map before entering.

owing to

- We didn't go swimming, owing to the cold weather.

past

- I saw you yesterday when we drove past your school.
- The post office is just past the police station.
- Don't work past your bed-time.
- This is difficult. It's past me.
- It's nearly ten minutes past five. 5.09 to be precise.

pending

- We cannot supply you pending payment.
- Pending his return, we can do nothing.
- There were many arguments pending the negotiations.

per

- The speed limit is 70 miles per hour.
- The carpet costs \$10 per square metre.

plus

- 2 plus 2 = 4.

- There will be three of us, plus the baby. So that's four in total.

pro

- Are you pro capital punishment or against it?
- He is very modern. He is generally pro new ideas.

preparatory to

- I made a graph preparatory to the meeting, so everything was ready.

prior to

- I never spoke French prior to living in France. But I learned quickly after coming to France.

re

- Re: your letter dated 21 May
- I want to talk you re the proposed meeting.

regarding

- I would like to speak to you regarding my homework.
- Regarding John, let's talk later.

respecting

- I would like to speak to you respecting my homework.
- I am writing to you respecting our latest products.

round

- I live round the corner.
- They all sat round the fire.
- There is a hedge round the house.

regardless of

- I don't want it, regardless of the price. Even if it's free, I just don't want it.

save (*formal*)

- All save Mrs Jones were present.

saving (*formal*)

- Saving yourself, nobody thanked me.

since (*also conjunction*)

- I haven't seen Josef since Monday.
- Mr Brown has worked in a bank since 1985.

save for

- Everyone came, save for Lek who had to work.

than (*also conjunction*)

- He is a writer than whom there is no finer.
- Your car is bigger than my car.

through (*also thru* – American English)

- The train goes through a tunnel.
- I can see light through the keyhole.
- You have been through a difficult experience.
- You went thru a red light.
- The error occurred through my own stupidity.
- They worked Monday through Thursday. (American English)

throughout

- It is raining throughout the whole country.
- He worked throughout the day, and most of the night.

till (*also conjunction*)

- I work from 9am till 5pm.
- Please wait till I come.

to

- Could you give this to Kob?
- My car does 10 miles to the litre.
- To his surprise, the door was open.
- The museum is open from Monday to Friday.
- The time is ten to five. [4.50]

touching

- Touching your homework, I think we need to speak.

towards

- He drove off toward(s) the mountain.
- I'd better go. It's getting toward(s) midnight.
- He contributed \$100,000 toward(s) the new building.
- It's the first step toward(s) peace.
- He has a positive attitude toward(s) his work.

thanks to

- Thanks to Shirley, we arrived on time.

together with

- I'd like chicken please, together with vegetables.

under

- The mouse ran under the chair.
- The bucket is under the sink.
- Submarines can travel under water.
- We drove under a bridge.
- I have a T-shirt under my pullover.

- Who do you work under? Who is your boss?
- I am under orders from the President.
- What is the subject under discussion?
- Under the company rules, we can't do that.
- Please buy it if it's under \$50.

underneath

- The nurse put a pillow underneath his head.
- There is a big cellar underneath our house.

unlike

- That's very unusual. It's unlike Andrea to be so rude.
- This problem is unlike any we have met before.

until (*formal, also conjunction*)

- They continued the meeting until 11 pm.
- Please wait until I come.

up

- Jack and Jill ran up the hill.
- There is a post office up the street.

upon (*formal*)

- Please don't put your shoes upon the table.
- There are now no dinosaurs upon Earth.
- I need a book upon bio-chemistry.
- We met upon a Monday.
- He broke his leg upon getting out of the car.

up against

- We are up against a powerful enemy.

up to

- There was a shop here up to 1990. But it closed that year.

up until

- We worked up until they came. Then we stopped.

versus

- He was the judge in the case of Gore versus Bush.
- We should choose peace versus war.

via

- We flew from Paris to Bangkok via Dubai.

vis-à-vis (*from French*)

- I prefer Jaguar cars vis-à-vis BMW cars.
- I need to speak to you vis-à-vis your homework.

with

- Do you live with your parents?
- He's been with EnglishClub.com for two years.
- I discussed it with her.
- With your permission, I'd like to go.
- If you mix red with yellow you get orange.
- Muriel is the girl with black hair.
- Do you want to come with us?
- I made this chair with my own hands.
- You'll forget her with time.

within

- There is a modem within the computer.
- I will finish within 30 minutes.
- He lives within 10 miles of his work.
- It's not within my power to help you.

without

- I want trousers without buttons.
- I came without my wife because she is working.
- He watched without speaking.

worth

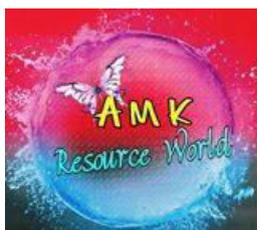
- This car is worth \$10,000.

with reference to

- With reference to your comments, I'll reply soon.
- I am writing with reference to your order.

with regard to

- I'd like to speak to you with regard to your work.

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