Prepositions

Prepositions are terms which define the connection between the individual words in a sentence. Prepositions afford a writer the ability to clarify the time and space relationships between the subject(s) and object(s) of a phrase.

EX. The dog (subj.) drooled on the cat (obj).

Pizza (subj.) is a wonderful meal, especially if it is eaten before ten a.m. (obj).

The fat lady (subj.) sits around the house (obj).

The formerly graceful duck (subj.) fell off the sidewalk (obj).

Some Aspects of Preposition Use Are Confusing

Prepositions and Time: at, on, in, since, and for.

At defines specific times.

Ex. Lunch is at noon.

Ex. My flight departs at 5:15 p.m.

On describes days and dates.

Ex. Christmas is on December 25.

Ex. Class begins on Tuesday.

In defines a nonspecific time of a day, month, season, or year.

Ex. John woke in the afternoon.

Ex. Thanksgiving is an American holiday celebrated in the autumn.

Since references a specific date.

Ex. Fred has been dead since March 12, 1864.
For is used to measure specific time.

Ex. Jane can run for two minutes.

Ex. This writer has been bored with creating examples for five minutes.

Prepositions and Place: at, on, and in.

At denotes a specific address.

Ex. DBU is located at 3000 Mountain Creek Parkway

On designates names of streets.

EX. Bob lives on Burger Street.

In is used to describe areas of land.

EX. Santa Claus is rumored to vacation in Sweden.

List of Common Prepositions

- 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 * excepting * 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

- One way to think of prepositions is to imagine oneself with reference to one’s house. One may be on/above/near/inside/outside/under... one’s home.

- Important Note: Because prepositions describe the relationship between subjective terms and objective terms, it is nonsensical to end a sentence with a preposition.

EX. “Where are you at?” (Incorrect)

“Where are you?” (Correct)