



# Dallas Baptist University

## Writing Center

### 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.



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**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**)