Prepositions

Definition
A **preposition** links nouns, pronouns, and phrases to other words in the sentence. A noun or noun phrase following the preposition is known as the **object of the preposition**. Prepositions can show spatial, temporal, or logical connections in a sentence.

*Spatial:* Darth Vader put the cat **in** the box.
*Temporal:* Yoda is going to Vegas **on** Thursday.
*Logical:* **Regarding** the cat that you put in the box on Thursday, Bob is not amused.

**General Example:** Since the nineteenth century, clown pageantry has been a favorite pastime **for** those **over** sixty-five **with** extra cash **in** their bank accounts.

**Temporal Prepositions**

**At** can define specific times.
- Ex. Lunch is **at** noon.
- Ex. My flight departs **at** 5:15 p.m.

**On** can describe specific days and dates.
- Ex. Christmas is **on** December 25.
- Ex. Class begins **on** Tuesday.

**In** can define 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** can reference a specific date.
- Ex. Fred has been dead **since** March 12, 1864.
- Ex. Margaret has been marooned **since** her magenta marble made Melissa moan.

**For** can be used to measure specific time.
- Ex. Jane can run **for** two minutes.
- Ex. This writer has been bored with creating examples **for** five minutes.

**Spatial Prepositions**

**At** can denote a specific address.
- Ex. DBU is located **at** 3000 Mountain Creek Parkway.
- Ex. Nemo can be found **at** 42 Wallaby Way, Sydney.
On can designate names of streets.
Ex. Bob lives on Burger Street.
Ex. I saw Hendrina driving on Davis Street this morning.

In can be used to describe areas.
Ex. Santa Claus is rumored to vacation in Sweden.
Ex. There are amazing animals in the Serengeti.

Logical Prepositions

Prepositions like concerning, regarding, and about show connections between ideas in a sentence.

Ex. I gleaned many interesting facts about rabies when Darth Vader’s feral cat attacked me.
Ex. Regarding the recent increase in the elephant population, the Galactic Empire declared “Free Elephant Tuesdays” among the storm troopers.

List of Common Prepositions

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

ALSO, words like home, downtown, uptown, inside, outside, downstairs, and upstairs do not require a preposition.

Ex. Hannah went inside the igloo.
Ex. The baton-twirling gorilla went upstairs.