Prepositions

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 temporal, spatial, or logical connections in a sentence.

**Temporal Prepositions**

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

- **On** can describe specific days and dates.
  - Ex: Christmas is **on** December 25.
  - Ex: The new semester begins **on** Tuesday.

- **In** can define a nonspecific time of a day, month, season, or year.
  - Ex: John went home **in** the afternoon.
  - Ex: Thanksgiving is an American holiday celebrated **in** November.

- **In** can also define an allotted length of time.
  - Ex: The paper is due **in** two weeks.
  - Ex: The carpenter can finish the job **in** one hour.

- **Since** can reference a specific date or occurrence.
  - Ex: Fred has been dead **since** March 12, 1864.
  - Ex: Margaret has been marooned **since** her ship sank.

- **For** can be used to measure specific time.
  - Ex: Jane can hold her breath **for** two minutes.
  - Ex: The garbage can has been full **for** three days.

**Spatial Prepositions**

- **At** can denote a specific address or place.
  - Ex: DBU is located **at** 3000 Mountain Creek Parkway.
  - Ex: Area rugs can be found **at** Home Depot.

- **On** can designate names of streets.
  - Ex: Bob lives **on** Burger Street.
  - Ex: Harry saw Hermione driving **on** Davis Street this morning.

- **On** can also refer to spatial placement.
  - Ex: Mom left her keys **on** the counter.
  - Ex: Todd put his shoes **on** his feet.

- **In** can be used to refer to specific areas.
  - Ex: Santa Claus is rumored to vacation **in** Sweden.
  - Ex: There are a dozen fresh cookies **in** the cookie jar.
One way to think of many spatial prepositions is to imagine a bird with reference to a house. A bird may be on, above, near, inside, outside, or under a house.

**Logical Prepositions**

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

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

One way to think of many logical prepositions, which can be tricky, is to imagine the qualities of a book. A book is typically written by someone, about something, with characters, during a certain time period.

**List of Common Prepositions**

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**Note:** some location words (like home, downtown, uptown, inside, outside, downstairs, and upstairs) do not always require a preposition.

Ex: Hannah went inside the igloo.  
Ex: James likes to spend time at home, so he went home after the party.