

USE OF PREPOSITIONS

By

Sudesh M.B. Bhowate

Head, Dept. of English

Dr. M.W. P. W. S. Arts & Commerce College, Nagpur

1. Prepositions of Time

2. Prepositions of Place

3. Prepositions of Movement

1. Prepositions of Time

at, in, on

We use:

☐ **at** for a **PRECISE TIME**

☐ **in** for **MONTHS, YEARS, CENTURIES** and **LONG PERIODS**

☐ **on** for **DAYS** and **DATES**

at

in

on

PRECISE TIME

**MONTHS, YEARS,
CENTURIES and
LONG PERIODS**

DAYS and DATES

at 3 o'clock

in May

on Sunday

at 10.30am

in summer

on Tuesdays

at noon

in the summer

on 6 March

at dinnertime

in 1990

on 25 Dec. 2010

at bedtime

in the 1990s

on Christmas Day

at sunrise

in the next century

on Independence Day

at sunset

in the Ice Age

on my birthday

at the moment

in the past/future

on New Year's Eve

Look at these examples:

1. I have a meeting **at** 9am.
2. The shop closes **at** midnight.
3. Jane went home **at** lunchtime.
4. In England, it often snows **in** December.
5. Do you think we will go to Jupiter **in** the future?
6. There should be a lot of progress **in** the next century.
7. Do you work **on** Mondays?
8. Her birthday is **on** 20 November.
9. Where will you be **on** New Year's Day?

The ATONIN time Pyramid

Hours

AT

- 5 Pm
12 o'clock
7 AM

Days

ON

- Friday
My Birthday
May 7th, 1964

Weeks
Months
Years
Decades
Centuries

IN

- 2 Weeks
July, May
1970, 1981
The 80's
The 1800's

Exceptions: In 5 minutes In the morning In the afternoon At night.

English	Usage	Example
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

English	Usage	Example
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 up to a certain time</i>	I will be back by 6 o'clock. By 11 o'clock, I had read five pages.

2. Prepositions of Place at, in, on

In general, we use:

- at for a POINT
- in for an ENCLOSED SPACE
- on for a SURFACE

at

POINT

at the corner

at the bus stop

at the door

at the top of the page

at the end of the road

at the entrance

at the crossroads

at the front desk

in

ENCLOSED SPACE

in the garden

in London

in France

in a box

in my pocket

in my wallet

in a building

in a car

on

SURFACE

on the wall

on the ceiling

on the door

on the cover

on the floor

on the carpet

on the menu

on a page

Look at these examples:

1. Jane is waiting for you **at** the bus stop.
2. The shop is **at** the end of the street.
3. My plane stopped **at** Dubai and Hanoi and arrived in Bangkok two hours late.
4. When will you arrive **at** the office?
5. Do you work **in** an office?
6. I have a meeting **in** New York.

7. Do you live **in** Japan?

8. Jupiter is **in** the Solar System.

9. The author's name is **on** the cover of the book.

10. There are no prices **on** this menu.

11. You are standing **on** my foot.

12. There was a "no smoking" sign **on** the wall.

13. I live **on** the 7th floor at 21 Oxford Street in London.

- ✚ Notice the use of the prepositions of place **at, in and on** in these standard expressions:

at

at home

at work

at school

at university

at college

at the top

at the bottom

at the side

at reception

in

in a car

in a taxi

in a helicopter

in a boat

in a lift (elevator)

in the newspaper

in the sky

in a row

in Oxford Street

on

on a bus

on a train

on a plane

on a ship

on a bicycle, on a motorbike

on a horse, on an elephant

on the radio, on television

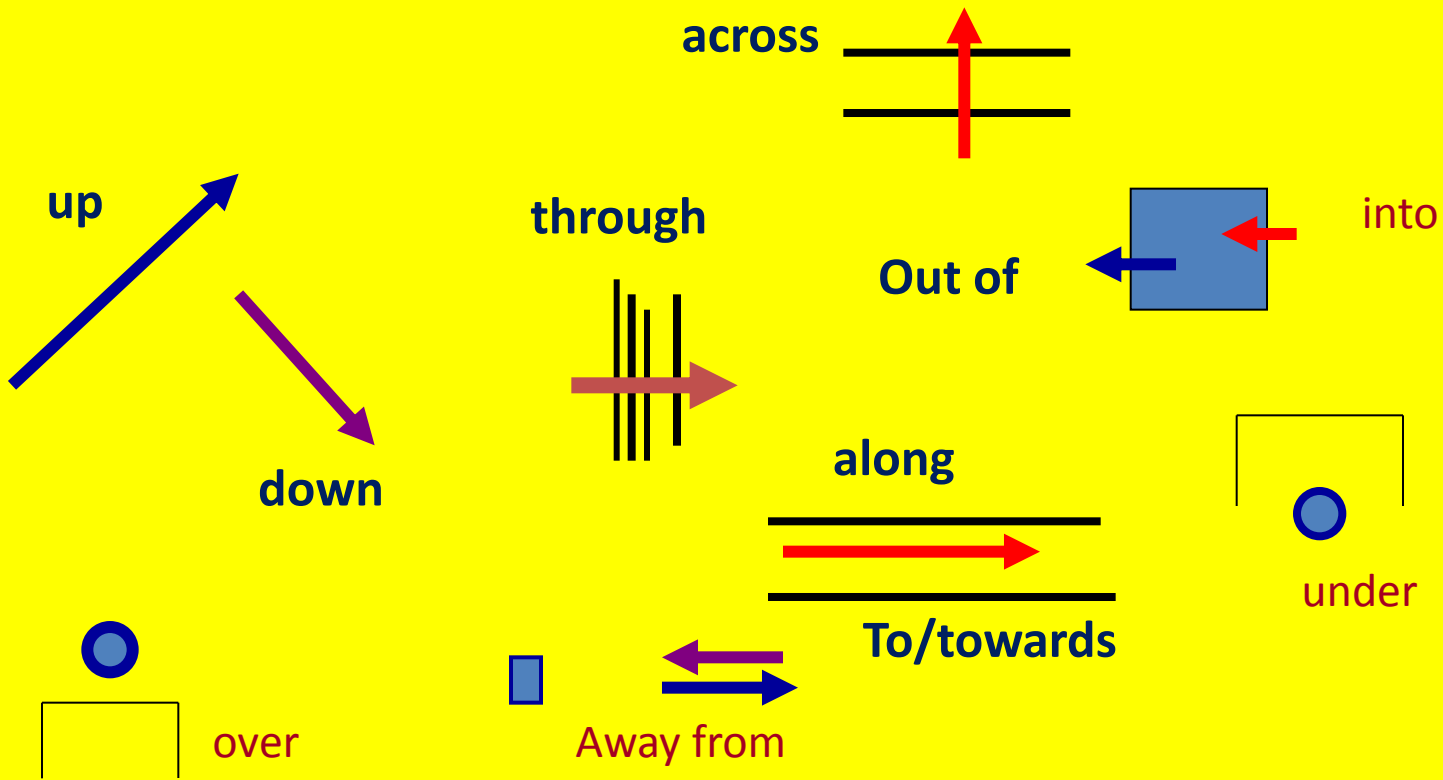
on the left, on the right

on the way

under	on the ground, lower than (or covered by) something else	the bag is under the table
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

movement



PREPOSITIONS OF MOVEMENT



- Where is the train going?

*The train is passing
.....the forest.*

through

PREPOSITIONS OF MOVEMENT



- What is the man doing?

He is going

downstairs

PREPOSITIONS OF MOVEMENT



- Where are they going?
*They are goingthe
mountain*
to/ towards/ up

PREPOSITIONS OF MOVEMENT



- What are they doing?
*They are goingthe
road*
across



PREPOSITIONS OF MOVEMENT



- What is the man doing?

The man is walking

.....

the Train Track

along

PREPOSITIONS OF MOVEMENT



- What are they doing?

*They are running
.....the elephant.*

away from

PREPOSITIONS OF MOVEMENT



- Where is she going?
She is going The schoolbus
towards

PREPOSITIONS OF MOVEMENT



- What are the fish doing?

*The fish are swimming
.....the water*

under

PREPOSITIONS OF MOVEMENT



- What is the girl doing?

*The girl is
walking.....the sun
under*

PREPOSITIONS OF MOVEMENT



- Where are they walking?

*They are walking
....the park*

in

PREPOSITIONS OF MOVEMENT



- What is he doing?

*He is jumpingthe
swimming-pool*

into

PREPOSITIONS OF MOVEMENT



- What is he doing?

*He is coming.....the
swimming-pool*

out of

Other important Prepositions

English	Usage	Example
from	who gave it	a present from Manish
of	who/what does it belong to what does it show	a page of the book the picture of a palace
by	who wrote it	a book by Chetan Bhagat
on	walking or riding on horseback entering a public transport vehicle	on foot, on horseback get on the bus

English	Usage	Example
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

THANK YOU
THANK YOU
THANK YOU
THANK YOU
THANK YOU
THANK YOU