

PREPOSITIONS

Understand how to correctly indicate time, place or other similar relationships

WHAT ARE PREPOSITIONS?

- Prepositions indicate time, place, or another logical relationship between words in a sentence.
- Preposition use is often idiomatic, meaning that sometimes, there is no grammar “rule” that tells us when to use certain prepositions. Idiomatic prepositions simply have to be memorized.

CAN I END A SENTENCE WITH A PREPOSITION?

- Generally, you should try not to end your sentences with prepositions; this is especially true for formal, academic writing.
- If you are able to revise your sentence so that it does not end with a preposition, do so. However, if the revised sentence sounds awkward, use the original sentence instead, since you may be dealing with an idiom.

USE PREPOSITIONS TO INDICATE **TIME**:

Preposition	Use when referring to...	Example
At	A specific time	My next class is at 2:30pm.
On	A specific day or date	I have class on Tuesday. My brother was born on January 26.
In	A period of time during the day	I do not have class in the morning.
In	A month	We are going on vacation in August.
In	A season	There are no classes offered in the winter.
In	A year	She graduated from high school in 2007.
For	A measurement of time	I have worked at this restaurant for two years.

USE PREPOSITIONS TO INDICATE **PLACE** (LOCATION\POSITION):

Preposition	Use when referring to...	Example
At	A specific meeting place	We are meeting at the library.
On	A street (not a whole address)	He lives on Rural Road.
On	A surface	The book you want is on the table.
On	An electronic medium (website)	I read about the War of 1812 on Wikipedia.
In	A print medium (book or newspaper)	I read about the War of 1812 in a history book.
In	Towns, states, or countries	I live in Phoenix; I live in Arizona; I live in the United States.
At	An address	My favorite coffee shop is located at 1001 N. 3rd Avenue.

PREPOSITIONS

COMMON PREPOSITIONS THAT ARE USED IN IDIOMS TO INDICATE LOCATION:

AT	ON	IN
at home	on a bus	in a car
at work	on a plane	in a boat
at school	on a bicycle	in the sky
at the bottom	on a horse	in class
	on the left/on the right	
	on the way	

USING PREPOSITIONS WITH NOUNS, ADJECTIVES, AND VERBS:

Many nouns, adjectives, and verbs are often followed by a preposition. These are usually idiomatic, meaning that there are no established rules to help us decide when to use what preposition.

HERE ARE SOME COMMON EXAMPLES THAT YOU SHOULD LEARN:

NOUN + PREPOSITION	ADJECTIVE + PREPOSITION	VERB + PREPOSITION
belief in...	afraid of...	according to...
concern for...	angry at...	apologize for...
confusion about...	aware of...	apply for... (a specific job, scholarship, position, etc.)
interest in...	capable of...	apply to... (the university, business, or program that is offering a position)
love of...	familiar with...	argue about...
need for...	made of...	ask about... (to get more information)
participate in...	proud of...	ask for... (someone/something in particular)
reason for...	sorry for...	belong to...
success in...	sure of...	care for...
understanding on...	tired of...	consist of...
	worried about...	dream about...
		find out...
		give up...
		grow up...
		regard as...
		rely on...
		study for...
		talk about...
		think about...
		work for...
		worry about...