

# Prepositions

Prepositions are short words (on, in, to) that usually stand in front of nouns (sometimes also in front of gerund verbs).

The following table contains rules for some of the most frequently used prepositions in English:

## Prepositions – Time

English	Usage	Example
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>on</li></ul>	days of the week	on Monday
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>in</li></ul>	months / seasons time of day year after a certain period of time ( <i>when?</i> )	in August / in winter in the morning in 2006 in an hour
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>at</li></ul>	for <i>night</i> for <i>weekend</i> a certain point of time ( <i>when?</i> )	at night at the weekend at half past nine
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>since</li></ul>	from a certain point of time (past till now)	since 1980
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>for</li></ul>	over a certain period of time (past till now)	for 2 years
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>ago</li></ul>	a certain time in the past	2 years ago
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>before</li></ul>	earlier than a certain point of time	before 2004
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>to</li></ul>	telling the time	ten to six (5:50)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>past</li></ul>	telling the time	ten past six (6:10)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>to / till / until</li></ul>	marking the beginning and end of a period of time	from Monday to/till Friday
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>till / until</li></ul>	in the sense of <i>how long something is going to last</i>	He is on holiday until Friday.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>by</li></ul>	in the sense of <i>at the latest</i> up to a certain time	I will be back by 6 o'clock. By 11 o'clock, I had read five pages.

## Prepositions – Place (Position and Direction)

English	Usage	Example
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>in</li> </ul>	room, building, street, town, country book, paper etc. car, taxi picture, world	in the kitchen, in London in the book in the car, in a taxi in the picture, in the world
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>at</li> </ul>	meaning <i>next to, by an object</i> for <i>table</i> for events place where you are to do something typical (watch a film, study, work)	at the door, at the station at the table at a concert, at the party at the cinema, at school, at work
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>on</li> </ul>	attached for a place with a river being on a surface for a certain side (left, right) for a floor in a house for public transport for <i>television, radio</i>	the picture on the wall London lies on the Thames. on the table on the left on the first floor on the bus, on a plane on TV, on the radio
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>by, next to, beside</li> </ul>	left or right of somebody or something	Jane is standing by / next to / beside the car
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>under</li> </ul>	on the ground, lower than (or covered by) something else	the bag is under the table
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>below</li> </ul>	lower than something else but above ground	the fish are below the surface
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>over</li> </ul>	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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>above</li> </ul>	higher than something else, but not directly over it	a path above the lake
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>across</li> </ul>	getting to the other side (also <i>over</i> )	walk across the bridge

English	Usage	Example
	getting to the other side	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

### Other important Prepositions

English	Usage	Example
• from	who gave it	a present from Jane
• of	who/what does it belong to what does it show	a page of the book the picture of a palace
• by	who made it	a book by Mark Twain
• on	walking or riding on horseback entering a public transport vehicle	on foot, on horseback get on the bus
• 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

English	Usage	Example
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• about</li></ul>	for topics, meaning <i>what about</i>	we were talking about you

(source : [www.ego4u.com](http://www.ego4u.com))