

# The Ins and Outs of Prepositions

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\* Two- or Three-Word Combinations That Function As Prepositions

## INTRODUCTION

Prepositions pose more problems for the non-native speaker or learner of English than any other part of speech. Why? Prepositions are just little words that never change in form; they are pronounced softly, in unstressed syllables; they aren't even given capital letters in book titles; native speakers choose the correct ones without thinking. How can they be confusing?

The word "preposition" has a straightforward definition: a word placed before a noun or pronoun to define its relationship with another word in the sentence. For the learner of English, however, prepositions are anything but straightforward.

—Prepositions are difficult, if not impossible, to define without using other prepositions.

Example:

In the sentence, "The book is on the table," what does on mean?

On means "*above* and supported *by*."

—In no other language are the prepositions (if they exist at all) the exact equivalents of English prepositions.

Example:

*Spanish*

Vive en Washington.

Vive en la Avenida New Jersey.

El está en el aeropuerto.

Estoy pensando en ti.

*English*

He lives in Washington.

He lives on New Jersey Avenue.

He is at the airport.

I am thinking about you, or

I am thinking of you.

—Many preposition words can also be adverbs or conjunctions.

Examples:

the preposition down

the adverb down

the preposition after

the conjunction after

She walked down the hill.

He put the book down.

She took a nap after lunch.

She went outside after she put the book

down.

—Many prepositions can indicate more than one meaning or relationship.

Examples with after:

later than

We rested after lunch.

in pursuit of

The cat is after the mouse.

because of

He was angry after the way she acted.

in the style of

This is a painting after Picasso.

continuously

She worked night after night.



## **PART ONE— THE PREPOSITIONS**



## How to Use Part One

Each definition of a preposition is followed by one or more *patterns*, which indicate the word order appropriate for the definition.

The verbs in each pattern can be changed to other tenses.

### Example:

**Pattern: verb + toward + noun**

*The money goes toward helping the family.*

This could also be:

*The money went toward helping the family.*

*The money will go toward helping the family.*

*The money is going to go toward helping the family.*

When a word cannot be substituted, that word is included in the pattern.

### Example:

**Pattern: *be* + after + noun**

*The reception is after the wedding.*

*be* is the only possible verb for this pattern.

When a word is optional, it is in parentheses.

### Example:

**Pattern: *be* + outside (of) + noun**

*The dog is outside the house.*

*The dog is outside of the house.*

When the word *noun* is in the pattern, use the normal patterns for noun usage, as outlined in Part Three.

### Example:

**Pattern: verb + against + noun**

*Dr. Jones is against the idea.*

This could also be:

*Dr. Jones is against my idea.*

*Dr. Jones is against this idea.*

*Dr. Jones is against our ideas.*

*Dr. Jones is against some of their ideas.*

When the noun determiner cannot be substituted, it is included in the pattern.

**Example:**

**Pattern: verb + against + the + noun**

*We sailed against the wind for an hour.*

(*the* cannot be replaced by *a*, *this*, *my*, or any other word)

1—

## About

1 **About** identifies a **topic**.

**Pattern 1: noun + *be* + about + noun**

*This book is about prepositions.*

Nouns commonly used before about:

**argument, article, book, conversation, disagreement, discussion, joke, lecture, movie, news, play, program, report, speech, story**

**Pattern 2: noun + about + noun**

*She gave me advice about my loan.*

Nouns commonly used before about:

**assurance, complaint, comment, gossip, lie, question, statement, truth**

**Pattern 3: verb + about + noun**

*He often talks about his job.*

Verbs commonly used before about:

**agree, argue, brag, care, complain, cry, do, dream, forget, groan, hear, joke, know, laugh, lie, moan, pray, read, say, scream, sing, talk, think, wonder, worry, yell**

## Expressions:

to see about—

1. to delay a decision until more information is known

*We want to buy a house, but we will see about that later.*

2. to get information about

*I called that office to see about getting a job there.*

to find out about—to get information about

*She called the school to find out about her daughter's behavior.*

**Pattern 4: verb + noun + about**

*She knows something about airplanes.*

Typical verbs used with this pattern:

**ask, find out, know, learn, say**

Typical nouns used before about:

a little, a lot, quite a bit, nothing, something, very little

**Pattern 5: verb + indirect object + about + noun**

*They asked me about my trip.*

Verbs commonly used with this pattern:

**advise, ask, bother, contact, harass, question, remind, teach, tell, write**

**Pattern 6: adjective + about + noun**

*They were very kind about our late arrival.*

Adjectives commonly used before about:

**charming, kind, nasty, nice, mean, rude, sweet, understanding, unkind**

2 **About** can identify the **cause of an emotion or condition.**

**Pattern: adjective + about + noun**

*We are excited about our vacation.*

2—

## Above

1 **Above** can mean **in or at a higher place**.

**Pattern 1:** *be* + above + noun

*A dark cloud was above the house.*

**Pattern 2:** verb + noun + above + noun

*Let's hang the picture above the sofa.*

Verbs commonly used before above:

**arrange, carry, hang, hold, keep, place, put, set**

2 **Above** can mean **at a higher level, value, or rank**.

*Her blood pressure is above normal.*

*The children in her class are all above average.*

*In the navy, a captain is above a commander.*

3 **Above** (adverb) can indicate something **written earlier** in a book, article, or other document.

*Please see the instructions above.*

4 **Above** (adjective) describes something written earlier.

*Please follow the above instructions.*

5 **Above** indicates that a person is **too good** to commit the stated negative action.

**Pattern 1:** *be* + above + noun

*The policeman is above cruelty.*

Nouns often used after above:

**cruelty, dishonesty, meanness, perjury, theft, murder, treason**

**Pattern 2:** *be* + above + verb in gerund form

*He may be poor, but he is above stealing.*

Gerunds often used with this meaning:

**breaking the law, cheating, gossiping, lying, robbing, snooping, stealing**

## 6 Expressions

up above (adverb)—in heaven

*Our dear grandmother is now in peace up above.*

above and beyond the call of duty—action that is more or greater than what is

expected of a person

*My teacher's help after school was above and beyond the call of duty.*

above board—completely honest and open

*Our negotiations with the company were above board.*

above the law—exempt from restrictions of the law

*People in power sometimes believe they are above the law.*



3—

### Across

1 **Across** indicates the direction of **movement from one side of an area to the other**.

**Pattern: motion verb + across + noun**

*The girl ran across the yard.*

Verbs often used before across:

**crawl, drive, go, limp, move, ride, run, swim, walk**

2 **Across** can mean **on the other side of** a place.

**Pattern: verb + across + noun**

My friend lives across the street.

3 **Across from** means **opposite or facing**.

**Pattern 1: verb + across from + noun**

*My assistant's office is across from mine.*

*My secretary sits across from me.*

**Pattern 2: verb + across + noun + from + noun**

*My assistant's office is across the hall from mine.*

4 **Across** and **all across** mean **in every area of**.

*People across the world are using the Internet.*

*There is a heat wave all across the country.*

### Expression:

across the board—including everyone or everything

*Everyone got a raise in salary: there was a wage increase of three percent across the board.*

### 5 Phrasal verbs

come across (nonseparable)—find something unexpectedly

*I came across this old picture of you when I was looking for some documents.*

come across (intransitive)—be received by an audience

*The banquet speaker was not sure how well he came across.*

run across (nonseparable)—to find something unexpectedly

*I ran across a letter you wrote to me when we were children.*

get (something) across to (separable)—make something understood

*The young girl tried to get it across to her boyfriend that she was not ready to get married.*

4—

**After**

1 **After** means **later than** or **following**.

**Pattern 1: be + after + noun**

*The reception is after the wedding ceremony.*

**Pattern 2: after + gerund form of verb + noun**

*After finishing your homework, you can watch television.*

**Pattern 3: after (conjunction) + subject noun + verb**

*After you finish your homework, you can watch television.*

**Pattern 4: verb + after (conjunction) + subject noun + verb**

*The boss left after I came in.*

2 **After** can mean **lower in value or rank**.

*That school's athletes placed after ours in the playoffs.*

3 **After** can mean **in pursuit of**.

**Pattern: verb + after + noun**

*The cat ran after the mouse.*

Verbs often used before after:

**be, come, go, run**

4 **After** can mean **because of**.

**Pattern: adjective . . . + after + noun**

*He was mad at her after her behavior at the party.*

Typical nouns used after after:

**attitude, behavior, failure, kindness, manners, outburst, reaction, success**

5 **After** can mean **in spite of**.

**Pattern: after + verb in gerund form**

*They never got married, after dating for years.*

*After reading this article three times, I still don't understand it.*

6 **After** can mean **in the style of**.

**Pattern: noun + after + noun**

*The school play was a drama after Shakespeare.*

7 **After** can indicate **continuously**.

**Pattern: time period + after + same time period**

*The man waited night after night for his telephone to ring.*

*Life got harder year after year.*

*His mother told him time after time to clean up his room.*

Nouns often used with this meaning:

**day, hour, month, night, time, week, year**

5—

## Against

1 **Against** means **touching** something or somebody for support.

**Pattern 1: verb + against + noun**

*The man was leaning against his car.*

Typical verbs used before against:

**hang, lean, lie, rest, sleep**

**Pattern 2: verb + noun + against + noun**

*They held the mirror against the wall.*

Typical verbs used before against:

**butt, hold, keep, lay, lean, place, pull, put, rest, set**

2 **Against** means **touching forcibly**.

**Pattern: noun + verb + against + noun**

*The rain beat against the window.*

Verbs often used before against:

**bang, beat, crash, crush, heave, hit, knock, push, splash, throw, thrust**

3 **Against** means **in opposition to**.

**Pattern: noun + verb + against + noun**

*The mayor was against the idea of a new day-care center.*

*Stealing is against the law.*

*Our senator voted against that bill.*

Typical verbs used before against:

**act, argue, campaign, debate, fight, go, move, play, vote, work**

Nouns often used after against:

**action, bill, concept, enemy, force, idea, law, nomination, orders, plan, precepts, principles, proposal, regulations, religion, rules, suggestion, teachings, team, wishes**

4 **Against** can mean **toward a force in the opposite direction**.

**Pattern: verb + against + the + noun**

*Sailing was rough yesterday; we sailed against the wind all day.*

Typical verbs used before against:

**drive, fight, go, move, run, sail, struggle, swim, walk**

Nouns often used after against:

**current, flow, force, tide, wind**

**Expression:**

against traffic—

*I drive against traffic because I live in the city and I work in the suburbs.*

5 **Against** can mean **to the disadvantage of**.

**Pattern: noun + *be* + against + noun**

*You may not get that job because your age is against you.*

6—

### Ahead Of

1 **Ahead of** means **closer to a destination than** or **in front of**.

*My friend arrived first, and was ahead of me in line.*

2 **Ahead of** means **before**.

*You are in a hurry; please go ahead of me.*

3 **Ahead of** can mean **more advanced than**.

*Because he was absent for two weeks, the other students in his class are ahead of him.*

### 4 Phrasal verbs

get ahead (intransitive)—succeed

*She has struggled all her life to get ahead.*

get ahead of (nonseparable)—advance faster or further than someone else

*They are rivals, always competing to get ahead of each other.*

go ahead (intransitive)—Do it; begin now

*I asked for permission, and they told me to go ahead.*





7—

## Along

1 **Along** means **following the boundary** of something.

**Pattern: verb + along + noun**

*We walked along the water's edge at the beach last night.*

Typical verbs before along:

**jog, stroll, run, walk**

2 **Along with** means **together**.

**Pattern: verb + along with + noun**

*He used to sing along with me.*

Typical verbs used before along with:

**hum, play, run, sing, walk, work**

## 3 Expressions

all along (adverb)—the whole past time

*They have been enemies all along.*

## 4 Phrasal verbs

get along (intransitive)—live together in harmony

*She and her old roommate didn't get along.*

get along with (nonseparable)—to live in harmony with someone

*I hope she gets along with her new roommate.*



8—

## Among

1 **Among** can mean **surrounded by**.

**Pattern:** verb + **among** + plural (three or more) noun

*They camped in the woods among the trees.*

2 **Among** can mean **with each other**.

**Pattern:** verb + **among** + plural (three or more) noun

*The children quarreled among themselves.*

Typical verbs before among:

**argue, celebrate, debate, discuss something, fight, play, share something, talk**

3 **Among** can mean **to the individuals in a group**.

**Pattern:** verb + **among** + plural (three or more) noun

*They distributed the flyers among the students.*

Typical verbs before among:

**distribute, hand out, pass out**

4 **Among** can mean **included in a group**.

*Your friends are among the survivors.*

5 **Among** can indicate **many of a group**.

*Latin dancing is popular among the college students.*



9—

## Around

1 **Around** means **following a boundary, in a circular direction.**

**Pattern: motion verb + around + noun**

*We walked around the block.*

Verbs commonly used before around:

**drive, fly, race, ride, run, skip, travel, walk**

Nouns commonly used after around:

**block, building, house, room, track, world**

2 **Around** (adverb) indicates **movement in a circular direction in place.**

**Pattern: verb + around (on)**

*The earth spins around on its axis as it travels around the sun.*

Typical verbs used before around:

**spin, turn, whirl**

Expressions:

1. **turn around** (adverb)—face the opposite direction

*You are going east; to go west, you have to turn around.*

2. **turn something around** (adverb)—reverse the position of something

*Turn your chair around and talk to me.*

3 **Around** means **enclosing.**

**Pattern: verb + noun + around + noun**

*The teacher drew a circle around each mistake.*

*The rancher put a rope around the cow's neck.*

Verbs commonly used with this pattern:

**draw, fasten, put, tie, wrap**

4 **(All) around** means **in all areas of.**

*There is crime all around this city.*

5 **(All) around** can mean **on all sides of.**

*People were screaming all around me.*

6 **Around** means **on another side of**.

*The bank is around the corner.*

*Their farm is just around the bend.*

**Expressions:**

1. **around back**—at the back of a building

*Go around back to pick up your merchandise.*

2. **go around the bend**—be crazy

*I am so busy, I think I am going around the bend.*

**10—****As**

1 **As** means **in the role of**.

**Pattern 1: verb + as + noun**

*She is a trained teacher, but she works as a secretary in our office.*

Typical verbs used before as:

**act, serve, substitute, volunteer, work**

**Pattern 2: verb + noun + as + noun**

*We have selected you as the captain of the team.*

Typical verbs:

**choose, elect, nominate, pick, select, use**

**2 Expression**

as for me—regarding me

*They all went to the movies; as for me, I stayed home.*





**11—****At**

1 At can indicate **location**

**Pattern 1: at + the + place within a city or town**

*The women are at the supermarket.*

Nouns commonly used with this pattern:

**apartment, bus stop, factory, hospital, hotel, house, mall, office, park, parking lot, restaurant, station, store, theater, university**

**Pattern 2: at + an address**

*She lives at 3757 North 52nd Street, apartment 10.*

*You can contact him by e-mail, @xyz.com*

(The symbol @ is pronounced "at.")

**Pattern 3: at + the + place within another place**

*He was waiting in the room at the door.*

*He likes to sit in her apartment at the window facing the park.*

Nouns commonly used with this pattern:

**counter, desk, table, window**

2 At indicates a **place of attendance**.

**Pattern 1: be + at + Æ place or meal of regular attendance**

*The children are at school.*

*We aren't allowed to watch television when we are at dinner.*

Nouns used with this pattern:

**church, class, home, practice, school, work**

**breakfast, lunch, dinner**

**Pattern 2: be + at + noun of event**

*They are at the movies.*

*She is at a meeting.*

Nouns commonly used with this pattern:

**breakfast, brunch, celebration, concert, conference, dance, debate, dinner, forum, function, funeral, game, lecture, luncheon, meeting, movies, parade, party, play, program, reading, reunion, show, wedding**

3 At can indicate **in the direction of; toward**.

**Pattern 1: verb + at + noun**

*The teacher smiled at the new girl.*

Verbs commonly used with this pattern:

**aim, frown, glare, grab, grin, growl, hit, howl, laugh, leer, look, rush, shoot, shout, slap, smile, snatch, stare, swear, swing, wink, yell**

**Pattern 2: verb + noun + at + noun**

*The small boy threw a rock at the window.*

Typical verbs:

**swing, throw, toss**

12—

## Back to/Back From

1 **Back to** indicates return.

**Pattern 1:** verb + back to + noun of place or time

*Please go back to the beginning of your story.*

*The children went back to the museum to see the new exhibit.*

Verbs often used before back to:

**crawl, drive, fly, go, hark, jump, look, move, race, run, think, walk**

**Pattern 2:** verb + noun + back to + noun

*We took the train back to the city.*

Typical verbs:

**bring, carry, drive, push, pull, take**

2 **Back from** indicates return to a starting place from a different place.

**Pattern:** verb + back from + noun of place

*I'll be back (home) from the store in about ten minutes.*

*We can't leave until your mother gets back from her trip.*

Typical verbs before back from:

**be, come, drive, fly, get, move, run, walk**

3 **Back** indicates a return of something.

**Pattern 1:** verb + noun + back (+ to + noun)

*Please give this plate back to your mother.*

*I took the dress back to the store because it didn't fit.*

Typical verbs:

**bring, give, pay, send, take**

**Pattern 2:** verb + noun + back (+ from + noun)

*Please get my suit back from the cleaners.*

**Pattern 3:** verb + noun + back (adverb)

*I called you back when I got home.*

Typical verbs:

**call, bring, pay, put, take**

4 **Phrasal verbs**

get back (intransitive)—move out of the way

*We wanted to see the action, but they made us get back.*

get back to someone (nonseparable)—call someone with new information

*As soon as I know the figures, I will get back to you.*

get back at someone (nonseparable)—do harm in return for a wrong

*After he was fired, he tried to get back at his boss.*

13—

## Before

1 **Before** means **earlier than**.

*We must leave before four o'clock.*

2 **Before** can mean **in a more important position than**.

*She is so ambitious that she puts her job before her family.*

3 **Before** can mean **facing**.

*The handsome singer had many adoring fans before him.*

4 **Before** can mean **in the future**.

*The bride smiled as she thought of the happiness before her.*

5 **Before** can mean **in the presence of**.

*I was told to appear before the judge.*



14—

## Behind

1 **Behind** means **in the rear of**.

*The trash can is behind the chair.*

*My friend sits behind me in class.*

2 **Behind** can mean **less advanced than**.

*Miss Thompson's class is studying lesson three; the other classes are studying Lesson four. Miss Thompson's class is behind the other classes.*

3 **Behind** can mean **left in the past**.

*He is rich now; all his financial problems are behind him.*

4 **Behind** can mean **late**.

### Expressions:

1. behind schedule—later than usual

*The train is behind schedule.*

2. behind in payments—late in making a regular payment

*She is always behind in her rent payments.*

5 **Behind** can mean **encouraging or supporting**.

**Pattern: noun + behind + noun**

*The successful man had an ambitious woman behind him.*

*Those candidates have a lot of money behind them.*

*There must be a greedy person behind this scheme.*

Typical nouns after behind:

**a person or people**

**idea, plan, plot, project, scheme**

### 6 Expressions

behind the scenes—not seen

*The lawyer knew all the facts about the case; he had a lot of help behind the scenes.*

behind the times—old-fashioned

*Her dad still uses a typewriter; he is really behind the times.*





## 15— Below

**1 Below means lower in number or degree than.**

*Your body temperature is ninety-seven degrees; it is below normal, which is ninety-eight point six.*

**2 Below can mean lower in rank or level than.**

*In our company the supervisors are below the directors.*

*Our offices are on the fourth floor; theirs are below ours, on the third floor.*

**3 Below can mean farther along than.**

*There is a picnic ground just below the bridge.*

## 4 Expression

below the belt—unfairly, not according to the rules

*He pretended to be her friend, then applied for her job. That was really below the belt.*



16—

## Beneath

1 **Beneath** means **under and concealed by**.

*My glasses were beneath the newspaper.*

*The daffodils sprouted beneath the snow.*

2 **Beneath** can mean **less worthy than**.

*Now that she is rich and famous, she thinks her family is beneath her.*

3 **Beneath** can mean **unlikely, because of goodness or pride**.

**Pattern 1: it + *be* + beneath + noun of person + infinitive**

*She was a little wild, but it was beneath her to commit a crime.*

Typical verbs after beneath:

**break the law, commit adultery, commit a crime, commit perjury, gossip, lie, murder, steal**

**Pattern 2: noun/gerund form of verb + *be* + beneath + person**

*She was a little wild, but committing a crime was beneath her.*

Typical nouns before be beneath:

**adultery, breaking the law, committing a crime, forgery, lying, murder, stealing**



17—

## Beside

1 **Beside** means **next to**.

**Pattern:** verb + **beside** + noun

*Please come over here and sit beside me.*

Verbs commonly used with this pattern:

**be, kneel, lie (down), rest, sit (down), sleep, stand, walk, work**

## 2 Expressions

beside the point—irrelevant

*He always wastes time at our meetings by talking about things that are beside the point.*

beside oneself—extremely agitated

*My mother is beside herself because she doesn't know where my brother is.*



**18—**

**Besides**

**1 Besides means *excepting*.**

*Everyone besides me is at the beach.*

**2 Besides means *in addition to*.**

*Besides all of my friends, all of their brothers and sisters are there, too.*





19—

## Between

1 **Between** indicates **separation of two things**.

**Pattern: noun + between + noun**

*My neighbor and I built a fence between our backyards.*

2 **Between** can show **connection of two places**.

*Route 395 goes between New York and Washington.*

3 **Between** can indicate a **choice of**.

**Pattern: verb + between + noun + and + noun**

*You can have only one dessert, so please decide between cake and ice cream.*

Verbs often used before between:

**choose, decide, judge, pick, select**

4 **Between** means **not lower or higher in number**.

*We have saved between three and four thousand dollars.*

*It is hot today. It must be between eighty and eighty-five degrees.*

5 **Between** means **from a time to another time**.

*She will be away all weekend, so don't call her between Friday night and Monday morning.*

6 **Between** can mean **shared by**.

*We are on a diet, so we will have one piece of cake between us.*

*They only had five dollars between them.*

7 **Between** can mean **together**.

*The newlyweds painted their new house between them.*

## 8 Expressions

between you and me—confidentially

*I don't like to spread gossip, but between you and me, they got married last week.*

in between (adverb)—between, but not followed by an object.

*He isn't old or young; he is in between.*



20—

## Beyond

1 **Beyond** means **on the other side of**.

*Our street is beyond the traffic light.*

*If you are traveling west, New Mexico is beyond Texas.*

2 **Beyond** means **past the limits of**.

**Pattern 1:** *be* + **beyond** + **noun**

*The sick child was beyond help.*

*That situation is beyond my understanding.*

**Expression:**

beyond one—not understandable by someone

*This puzzle is beyond me.*

*That technical article was beyond him.*

**Pattern 2:** *be* + **adjective** + **beyond** + **noun**

*The palace was beautiful beyond description.*

Nouns commonly used after beyond:

**belief, comprehension, help, salvation, saving, understanding, one's wildest dreams**

3 **Beyond** can mean **later than**.

**Pattern:** **beyond** + **noun**

*The guests were having so much fun that they stayed well beyond midnight. In*

*this town nothing is open beyond ten o'clock.*

## 4 Expressions

beyond the pale—totally unacceptable

*His rude jokes at that formal reception were beyond the pale.*

the great beyond (adverb)—heaven

*She said there would be perfect peace in the great beyond.*



21—

**But**

1 **But** means **except**.

*She works every day but Friday.*



22—

**By**

1 **By** indicates an **actor, instrument, or cause**

**Pattern:** be + past participle + by + noun

*The work was done by a carpenter.*

*The mark was made by a hammer.*

*The damage was caused by the storm.*

2 **By** means **following the boundary of something; along**

*They walked by the side of the road.*

3 **By** indicates a **method or way**.

**Pattern:** verb + (noun) + by + noun

*She made a little money by begging.*

*We sent the letter by air mail.*

*They went to the mountains by Route 66.*

4 **By** can mean **according to** a form, period of time, packaging, weight, number, or amount

**Pattern:** verb + (noun) + by + the + noun

*He makes his decisions by the rules.*

*She charges by the hour.*

*We buy eggs by the dozen.*

Typical nouns after by the:

**day, hour, month, week**

**job, piece**

**bag, barrel, box, bucket, bushel, cup, drop, gallon, ounce, pint, pound, quart, ream, tablespoonful, teaspoonful**

5 **By** can mean **not later than**.

*You must be here by six A.M. sharp.*

*I'm worried; they should have arrived by now.*

**Expression:**

by the time—when

*By the time you get up, I'll be in New York.*

6 **By** means **near or next to**.

*His desk is by mine.*

*I hope you will stay by me.*

**7** By indicates **multiplication, division, and square measurement.**

*We multiplied four by three. ( $4 \times 3 = 12$ )*

*They divided ten by two. ( $10 \div 2 = 5$ )*

*That room measures ten feet by twelve feet. It measures 120 square feet.*



23—

### Close To

1 **Close to** means **near**.

*Your house is close to the metro station.*

*They are sitting close to each other.*

2 **Close to** indicates a very **friendly** or **intimate relationship**.

*She is very close to her older sister.*

3 **Close to** (adverb) can mean **almost**.

*I wrote close to fifty invitations this morning.*



24—

### Despite/In Spite Of

1 **Despite** indicates **an illogical occurrence**.

*We had a good time despite the bad weather.*

2 **In spite of** has the same meaning and usage as despite.

*We had a good time in spite of the bad weather.*



25—

## Down

1 **Down** indicates **movement from a higher place.**

**Pattern: noun + verb + down + noun**

*The rocks rolled down the mountain.*

Typical verbs used before down:

**come, fall, go, move, roll, run, slide, walk**

2 **Down** means **following the way of; along**

**Pattern 1: noun + verb + down + noun**

*The old man went down the road on foot.*

Typical verbs used before down:

**come, drive, go, move, run, skate, walk**

**Pattern 2: noun + verb + noun + down + noun**

*The boys rode their bikes down the street this morning.*

Typical verbs before down:

**bring, carry, drive, move, pull, push, ride, take**

Typical nouns after down:

**freeway, highway, path, road, sidewalk, street, turnpike**

3 **Down** indicates **destruction.**

**Pattern 1: noun + verb + down + noun**

*The intruder broke down the door.*

Typical verbs used before down:

**blow, break, bring, burn, cut, strike, take**

**Pattern 2: verb + noun + down**

*The intruder broke the door down.*

## 4 Expression

upside down—turned so that the bottom is on top

*The cups go in the dishwasher upside down.*

## 5 Phrasal verbs

back down (intransitive)—retreat

*The dog backed down when I called his name.*

calm down (separable)—soothe; tranquilize

*We had to calm the children down after the excitement.*

close down (separable)—stop business activity, temporarily or permanently

*We close the shop down at four o'clock every day.*

*They plan to close that business down for good.*

come down with (nonseparable)—become sick

*She missed the picnic because she came down with the flu.*

crack down on (nonseparable)—impose restrictions

*The police are cracking down on street violence.*

26—

## During

1 **During** indicates **within a period of time.**

*We slept during the day.*

*They practiced basketball during the summer.*

2 **During** means **at the same time as another event.**

*I slept during the football game.*

*They lived in the north during the war.*





27—

## Except

1 **Except** means **excluding**.

*Everyone went to the movies except me.*

*We work every day except Sunday.*



28—

### Far From

1 **Far (away) from** indicates a **great distance between places or people.**

*Their office isn't far (away) from here.*

*His sister moved far from home a long time ago.*

2 **Far from** (adverb) can mean **not.**

**Pattern: far from + adjective**

*His wife is far from perfect.*

Adjectives often used with this pattern:

**ideal, perfect, wonderful**



29—

**For**

1 **For** indicates a **recipient** or **beneficiary**.

**Pattern 1: noun + for + noun**

*I have a present for you.*

Nouns often used before for:

**answer, cure, gift, idea, job, message, letter, plan, present, project, question, suggestion, surprise, secret**

**Pattern 2: noun + for +  $\emptyset$  noun**

*We have news for you.*

Typical nouns before for:

**advice, help, information, news, nothing, something**

**Pattern 3: verb + noun + for + noun**

*She sang a song for me.*

*He only wants the best for you.*

Verbs often used before for:

**bake, build, buy, care, cook, create, dance, design, do, get, make, perform, play, sing, want, win, work, write**

2 **For** indicates a **special purpose**.

**Pattern 1: noun + for + noun**

*You need a coat for winter.*

*He has a bicycle for transportation.*

**Pattern 2: noun + for + verb in gerund form**

*They have a special place for washing cars.*

*The doctor has a machine for measuring blood pressure.*

**Expression:**

room for—enough space for something or somebody

*We need room for twenty people for our party.*

*We don't have room for a grand piano.*

3 **For** can indicate the **intended result** of an action.

**Pattern 1: verb + for + noun**

*The boys were screaming for help.*

***What are you looking for?***

Verbs often used before for:

**apply, ask, audition, beg, call, campaign, compete, cry, fight, go out, go, hope, long, look, petition, plead, pray, register, run, scream, send, shop, shout, stand in line, strive, study, train, try out, wait, whistle, wish, work, yell**

**Expression:**

run for office—be a candidate in an election

***After he ran for president and lost, he said he would never run for office again.***

**30—****From**

1 **From** indicates a **source**.

**Pattern 1: verb + from + noun**

*Tony is from Alabama.*

*I hear from him every week.*

Verbs commonly used before from:

**be, call, come, derive, hear**

**Pattern 2: verb + noun + from + noun**

*We get help from our neighbors.*

Verbs commonly used with this pattern:

**borrow, bring, buy, collect, copy, get, mail, obtain, receive, send**

2 **From** indicates a **point of departure**.

**Pattern: verb + from + noun (place)**

*The ship sailed from San Francisco.*

*Please start from the beginning.*

Typical verbs:

**begin, depart, drive, fly, go, graduate, move, read, sail, start (over), take off**

3 **From** can indicate **separation**.

**Pattern 1: verb + away + from + noun**

*We ran away from the building.*

*Keep away from the crowd.*

Typical verbs before away from:

**drive, get, keep, move, run, walk**

**Pattern 2: verb + noun + from + noun**

*We collected the papers from the students.*

Verbs commonly used with this pattern:

**borrow, buy, chase, collect, delete, dissociate, eliminate, erase, expel, hide, keep (away), protect, release, remove, save, scare (away), separate, shield, steal, subtract, take (away)**

4 **From** can indicate **difference**.

**Pattern 1: number + from + number**

*Three from nine equals six.*

**Pattern 2: number + noun of time of distance + from**

*He lives five miles from here.*

*They are only twenty minutes (away) from the city.*

*I will see you two weeks from today.*

**Expressions:**

be different from

*My sweater is different from yours.*



31—

**In**

1 **In** indicates **location inside** or **within** something else.

**Pattern 1: verb + in + noun**

*We live in that house.*

*The pencils are in the box.*

Nouns commonly used after in:

Geographical areas:

*city, continent, country, state, town*

*He lives in Seattle, Washington, in the U.S.A.*

Comfortable, protected places:

*alcove, large chair, cocoon, nest*

*He sat down in the chair and read his novel.*

Inside areas:

*attic, balcony, basement, building, corner, hall, kitchen, office, room*

*She is in her office, in that building, in room 302, in the corner.*

Vehicles where the passengers cannot walk around:

*car, canoe, helicopter, small airplane, small boat*

*We went in the car, but they went in a helicopter.*

Publications and speeches

*article, book, dictionary, encyclopedia, lecture, magazine, newspaper, speech*

*He didn't say that in his speech, but I read it in the newspaper.*

**Pattern 2: be + in +  $\emptyset$  noun**

*He can't come to the phone because he's in bed.*

Nouns commonly used after in:

*bed, church, class, jail, place, school, town*

**Pattern 3: verb + noun + in + noun**

*Put the pencils in the box.*

Typical verbs:

*drop, get, insert, lay, place, push, put*

Typical nouns:

*bag, box, drawer, file, folder, notebook, sack, suitcase, trunk, wallet*

2 **In** indicates **membership** of a group or category.

**Pattern:** *be* + noun + **in** + noun

*There are seven people in our family.*

*Your brother is the expert in that office.*

Nouns commonly used after in:

**association, category, choir, chorus, club, family, fraternity, group, office, society, sorority**

3 **In** can indicate a **period of time**.

**Pattern:** *be* + **in** + time period

century in + the

*She was born in the 1800s.*

32—

### **In Back Of**

1 **In back of** means located **behind**.

**Pattern 1: noun + in back of + noun**

*There is a beautiful tree in back of our house.*

**Pattern 2: verb + in back of + noun**

*Your sister sits in back of me in class.*



33—

### In Front Of

1 **In front of** means located **before** or **facing** something.

**Pattern 1: noun + in front of + noun**

*There is a van in front of their house.*

**Pattern 2: verb + in front of + noun**

*The teacher usually stands in front of the class.*

*He was in front of me in line.*

2 **In front of** can mean **in the future**.

*She has a lot of problems in front of her.*



### 34— Inside

1 **Inside** means **within** something else.

**Pattern:** verb + noun + **inside** + noun

*There are some little toy animals inside the box.*

*She put the money inside the envelope.*

2 **Inside** (adverb) means **indoors**, within a building.

*It started to rain, so we went inside.*





35—

## Instead Of

1 **Instead of** means **substituting for**.

**Pattern:** verb + noun + **instead of** + noun

*They went to **Hawaii** instead of **South America**.*

*She cooks a lot of **vegetables** instead of **meat**.*



36—

**Into**

1 **Into** indicates **entrance**.

**Pattern 1: verb + into + noun**

*We went into his office.*

*I drive into the city every day.*

Typical verbs before into:

**blow, break, come, drive, fall, fly, gaze, get, go, look, move, walk, run, sail, stare, stomp, storm**

**Pattern 2: verb + noun + into + noun**

*She poured the juice into the glass.*

Verbs often used with this pattern:

**blow, cram, drive, get, move, place, pour, put, set, throw**

2 **Into** can indicate **forced contact**.

**Pattern: verb + into + noun**

*That car crashed into a tree.*

Verbs often used before into:

**crash, push, pull, run, smash, tear**

**Expression:**

to run something into the ground—to talk about something too much

*We are sick of hearing about his job; he really runs it into the ground.*

3 **Into** can indicate **division**.

**Pattern 1: number + into + number = number**

*Three into twelve equals four.*

**Pattern 2: verb + noun + into + (number) + noun**

*She cut the pie into eight wedges.*

*The vase broke into a million pieces.*

Typical verbs before into:

**arrange, break, cut, divide, separate**

Typical nouns after into:

**bits, parts, pieces, slices, wedges**

4 **Into** can indicate a **change in condition or form**.

**Pattern 1: go/get + into + noun**

*They went into debt after the accident.*

*He always gets into trouble at school.*

Nouns often used after go into:

**action, bankruptcy, debt**

Nouns used after get into:

**danger, condition, shape, trouble**

37—

**Like**

1 **Like** can mean **similar to**.

**Pattern:** *be, look, seem* + **like** + **noun**

*She is like her sister.*

*They don't look like their mother.*

2 **Like** can indicate **similar behavior**.

**Pattern:** **verb** + **like** + **noun**

*He talks like his father.*

*She swims like a duck.*

Common verbs before like:

**act, behave, play, sing, talk, walk**

3 **Like** can describe excessive behavior.

**Pattern 1:** **verb** + **noun** + **like** + **abstract noun**

*She spends money like water.*

Nouns commonly used with this meaning:

**anything, fun, water**

**Pattern 2:** **verb** + **noun** + **like** + **adjective**

*He dances like crazy.*

*She works like mad.*

4 **Like** can indicate an **example**.

**Pattern:** **noun** + **like** + **noun**

*They grow root vegetables, like beets, carrots, radishes, and turnips.*

5 **Like** can mean **characteristic of**.

**Pattern:** *be* + **like** + **noun** + **to** + **verb**

*It's not like you to complain.*



**38—**

**Near**

1 **Near** means **close to** in terms of distance.

*His house is near his office.*

*She lives near San Francisco.*

2 **Near** means **within a short time**.

*His birthday is near Thanksgiving.*





**39—**

**Next To**

**1 Next to means at the side of.**

***Her best friend sits next to her at the table.***

***I will put my things in the basket next to yours.***



40—  
Of

1 **Of** indicates **belonging** or **connection**.

a. Of identifies a thing as a connection or **part of another thing**.

**the pages of the book**  
**the leaves of the tree**

b. Of identifies people, animals, or plants as **part of a larger group**.

**Pattern: noun + of + this/that + noun**

**the women of that family**  
**the people of that religion**

Nouns commonly used after of:

**city, club, company, country, culture, descent, faith, family, gender, genus, group, ilk, organization, race, religion, society, species**

c. Of identifies ideas or **works with their author**, artist, or composer.

**Pattern: noun + of + noun**

**the works of Shakespeare**  
**the methods of the teacher**

Nouns often used before of:

**essays, ideas, method, music, novels, opinion, paintings, plays, poems, poetry, songs, work, writing**

d. Of identifies an individual or **special member of a group** or institution.

**Pattern: noun + of + noun**

**the president of the class**  
**the coordinators of the program**

Nouns commonly used before of:

**captain, citizen, coordinator, dictator, head, hero, heroine, leader, loser, manager, mayor, member, president, secretary, servant, star, student, teacher, treasurer, villain, winner**

e. Of identifies a **person's occupation** or area of specialization.

**Pattern: noun + of + noun**

**a professor of mathematics**  
**students of cardiology**

**practitioner of medicine**

f. Of indicates a **connection with a place.**

**Pattern: noun + of + noun**

**a native of Alaska**

**the birds and animals of Australia**

Nouns often used before of:

**animal, bird, citizen, graduate, inhabitant, native, people, resident**

g. Of indicates a **connection with a period of time.**

**the music of the eighties**

**the dances of her youth**

**the fourth of July**

41—

## Off

1 **Off** indicates **movement** from one place to another.

**Pattern 1: verb + off + noun**

*The car ran off the road.*

*We got off the train in New Orleans.*

Verbs used with this pattern:

**blow, come, dive, drive, fall, get, go, hop, jump, limp, move, roll, run, slide, slip, walk**

**Expression:**

to be off (adverb)—to leave

*It's late, so we must be off.*

**Pattern 2: verb + noun + off + noun**

*They shoveled the snow off the driveway.*

Verbs used with this pattern:

**blow, brush, clean, clear, drive, get, move, pull, push, roll, run, scrape, shove, shovel, slide, slip, sweep, take, wash**

2 **Off** can indicate **separation**.

**Pattern: verb + off + noun**

*She cut off her beautiful long hair.*

Verbs commonly used with this meaning:

**break, chop, cut, pick, pull, saw, send, shave, take, tear, throw**

3 **Off** means **connected to** or **not far from**.

**Pattern: be + off + noun**

*Our street is off Main Street.*

Typical nouns after off:

**beach, coast, highway, island, road, street, turnpike**

4 **Off** can indicate **behavior** that is not as usual or no longer true.

**Pattern 1: be/go + off + noun**

*The children are off school today.*

*I'm glad your cousin finally went off drugs.*

Nouns commonly used with this meaning:

**alcohol, cigarettes, drugs, duty, school, work**

**Pattern 2: *be/go* + *off* + *one's* + *noun***

***She went off her diet again.***

Typical nouns:

**diet, medication, medicine, pills**

**Expressions:**

to be off course—to be going (or thinking) in the wrong direction

***We got lost, and were off course for about three hours.***

***They got off course while doing the research, and wasted a lot of time.***

42—

## On

1 **On** indicates location **higher than something and touching it; on top of**.

**Pattern: on + noun**

*The newspaper is on the table.*

*Please sign your name on the dotted line.*

2 **On** indicates an **outside location**.

**Pattern: on + the + noun**

*He was standing on the corner of First Street and Maple Avenue.*

*Let's have a barbecue on the balcony.*

Typical nouns after on the:

**balcony, beach, corner, fence, field, ground, hill, horizon, lawn, patio, porch, roof, terrace**

3 **On** indicates a **surface location**.

**Pattern 1: on + the + noun**

*She rides her bicycle on the sidewalk.*

Typical nouns after on the:

**boardwalk, court, (baseball) diamond, field, highway, path, rink, road, rocks, screen, sidewalk, street**

**Pattern 2: on + Æ noun**

*That is the only place on earth where she feels safe.*

Typical nouns after on:

**earth, land, page one (or any other number), solid ground, water**

4 **On** indicates certain **inside surface locations**.

**Pattern: on + the + noun**

*There is a fly on the ceiling.*

Typical nouns after on the:

**ceiling, floor, stairs, steps, wall, window  
first/second (or other number) floor**

5 **On** indicates surface **contact**.

**Pattern: verb + noun + on + noun**

*The child pasted the picture on the page.*

Typical verbs:

**glue, hold, paste, stick**

**6 On indicates location in a part of an area.**

**Pattern: be + on + the + noun + of + noun**

*The porch is on the side of the house.*

Typical nouns after on the:

**border, bottom, edge, end, exterior, inside, interior, left, outside, outskirts,  
first/second (or other number) page, right, side, surface, top**



43—

## Onto

1 **Onto** indicates **movement** from one position to another one.

**Pattern 1: verb + onto + noun**

*The child hopped onto the bed.*

Typical verbs used before onto:

**drip, fall, hop, jump, move, run, spill, step**

**Pattern 2: verb + noun + onto + noun**

*We moved all the books onto the desk.*

Typical verbs used with this pattern:

**drip, drop, move, spill, transfer**

2 **Onto** indicates **knowledge of misbehavior**.

**Pattern: be + onto + noun.**

*The police are onto that gang about the missing money.*



44—

## On Top Of

1 **On top of** indicates a position **higher than the object**.

**Pattern:** verb + **on top of** + noun

*They put the blanket on top of the sheets, and the bedspread on top of the blanket.*

*I'm sure I left my keys on top of the desk.*

## 2 Expression

to be on top of something—to be sure about one's knowledge or control of something

*Her son had a hard time learning math, but he is on top of it now.*



45—

## Opposite

1 **Opposite** means **facing; across from**.

**Pattern:** verb + **opposite** + noun

*I sat opposite him at the library last night.*

*My house is opposite the drugstore.*



46—

## Out

1 **Out** can indicate **removal**.

**Pattern: verb + noun + out**

*Please take the trash out.*

Typical verbs used with out:

**carry, cross, cut, get, kick, leave, move, take, tear, throw**

2 **Out** can indicate **distribution**.

**Pattern: verb + noun + out**

*The teacher told me to hand these papers out.*

Typical verbs used with out:

**give, hand, mail, pass, send**

3 **Out of** indicates **movement from inside**.

**Pattern 1: verb + out of + noun**

*He was freezing when he got out of the water.*

Typical verbs:

**come, crawl, drink, drive, eat, fall, get, go, jump, hop, run, step**

**Pattern 2: verb + noun + out of + noun**

*She took the cake out of the oven.*

Typical verbs:

**drive, get, grab, move, pour, pull, push, rip, sip, squeeze, take, tear**

4 **Out of** indicates **absence**.

**Pattern: be + out of + noun**

*The boss is out of the office.*

*My neighbors are out of the country this month.*

**Expression:**

to be out of town—to be absent from one's place of residence

*The boss is out of town this week.*

5 **Out of** indicates a **distance from**.

**Pattern: verb + out of + noun of place**

*The restaurant is about three miles out of town.  
They live two blocks out of the city limits.*

6 **Out of** can mean **no longer in supply**.

**Pattern:** *be/run* + **out of** + **plural or noncount noun**

*I can't make a cake because I am out of eggs.*

*They had to walk to the gas station because they ran out of gas.*

Typical noncount nouns used after out of:

**breath, gas, luck, money, stock, time, work**



47—

## Outside

1 **Outside (of)** means **not within**.

**Pattern:** verb + **outside (of)** + noun

*Don't worry, the dog is outside (of) the house.*



48—

## Over

1 **Over** means **above**.

**Pattern 1: verb + over + noun**

*The plane flew over our building.*

*The pictures were hanging over the sofa.*

Typical verbs used before over:

**be, bend, float, fly, hang, hover, lean, look, shine, watch**

**Pattern 2: verb + noun + over + noun**

*She hung the pictures over the sofa.*

Typical verbs used with this pattern:

**float, fly, hang, hold, install, nail, place, suspend**

**Expression:**

to hold something over one's head—to control, threaten, or punish someone because of a known fact or misdeed

*She knows he was fired from his last job; now she holds that over his head.*

2 **Over** can mean **higher than**.

**Pattern: be + (way) over + noun**

*The price of that vacation is (way) over our budget.*

*The water at this end of the pool is over your head.*

**Expression:**

be over one's head—more than one can understand

*I can do simple math, but that problem is way over my head.*

3 **Over** (adverb) can mean **more than**.

**Pattern: over + number + noun**

*He was driving at over eighty miles an hour.*

*I have gained over five pounds this month.*

4 **Over** indicates movement **above** something and **to the other side** of it.

**Pattern 1: verb + over + noun**

*The children jumped over the puddles on their way to school.*

*We had to climb over the mountain to get here.*

Typical verbs used before over:

**cross, climb, drive, get, go, hop, jump, look, run, skate, skip, step, stumble, trip**

**Pattern 2: verb + noun + over + noun**

*The young player batted the ball over the fence.*

*We had fun throwing rocks over the creek.*

Typical verbs:

**bat, carry, drive, hit, throw**

49—

**Past**

1 **Past** means **beyond**.

**Pattern:** *be* + **past** + noun referring to age

*The gas station is on your left, just past the shopping center.*

2 **Past** indicates **movement in front of and beyond** a place.

**Pattern:** verb + **past** + noun

*We drove past your house on our way to the party.*

*They often walk past the park.*

3 **Past** means **older than**.

**Pattern:** *be* + **past** + noun referring to age

*His daughter is past her teens now.*

*I'm sure he is past fifty.*

4 **Past** means **no longer able** to do something.

**Pattern:** *be* + **past** + verb in gerund form

*She is bitter now, and past caring.*

*The men were exhausted and past working.*

5 **Past** (adverb) means **later than**.

**Pattern:** *be* + **past** + noun referring to time

*It is ten past three in the afternoon.*

*They left at half past seven.*



50—

## Through

1 **Through** indicates **passage within** something.

**Pattern:** verb + **through** + noun

*The children drank their milkshakes through straws.*

*The highway was closed, and we had to come through the city.*

Typical nouns used after through:

**funnel, passage, pipe, straw, tunnel**

**a place—building, city, country, park, state, town**

2 **Through** can indicate a **gateway or obstacle** between two places.

**Pattern 1:** verb + **through** + noun

*We came through the front door.*

*He drove through the red light and got a ticket.*

Typical nouns:

**barricade, barrier, curtains, customs, door, entrance, gate, hole, intersection, light, slot, stop sign, window**

**Pattern 2:** verb + noun + **through** + noun

*The mail carrier pushed the letters through the slot.*

Typical verbs used before through:

**bring, carry, force, pull, push, receive, send, take**

3 **Through** can indicate **vision beyond** something.

**Pattern:** *see/show* + **through** + noun

*The window is so dirty that I can't see through it.*

*The tablecloth needs a liner; the table legs show through it.*

Typical nouns used after through:

**clouds, fabric, fog, glass, smoke, window**

**Expression:**

to see through somebody—to detect insincerity

*That woman pretends to be nice, but I can see right through her.*

4 **Through** can indicate the **parts beginning, between, and including**.

**Pattern:** **from** + noun + **through** + noun

*They have to work from Monday through Friday.*

*Please read from chapter one through chapter four.*

5 **Through** can mean **finish something that requires effort**.

**Pattern 1: verb + through + noun**

*I have to get through school before I can get married.*

Typical verbs used before through:

**get, go, live, struggle, suffer**

Typical nouns after through:

**school, training, work**



**51—**

**Throughout**

**1 Throughout** means **in all parts** of a place.

*There are spiders throughout the building.*

**2 Throughout** means during **an entire period of time**.

*She stays at the beach throughout the summer.*



52—

To

1 To indicates the **destination of a verb**.

**Pattern 1: verb + to +  $\emptyset$  noun**

*I'm going to bed.*

*They ride to school on the bus.*

Nouns commonly used after to:

**bed, breakfast, church, dinner, jail, lunch, school, work**

Exception:

go  $\emptyset$  home

*It is time to go home.*

*They went home on the bus.*

**Pattern 2: verb + to + the + noun**

*We go to the park every afternoon.*

*Call when you get to the office.*

Verbs often used with to:

**come, drive, extend, fall, fly, get, go, hike, move, return, ride, rise, run, send, ship, sink, walk**

**Expression:**

to rise to the occasion—to force oneself to act correctly

*I was surprised when he walked in, but I rose to the occasion and shook his hand.*

2 To indicates the **destination of a noun**.

**Pattern 1: noun + to + noun**

*The train to New York leaves at six o'clock.*

*We wanted to go on a cruise to the Caribbean.*

Typical nouns used before to:

**airplane, bridge, bus, climb, cruise, flight, highway, path, race, road, subway, train, trip, way**

**Pattern 2: noun + be + to + noun**

*The train is to New York.*

*His question is to me.*

Typical nouns used before to:

**answer, card, donation, explanation, gift, letter, memo, offer, petition, present, proposal, question, request, suggestion**

3 **To** indicates a **transfer** from a person or place.

**Pattern: verb + noun + to + noun**

*He delivers the mail to the office.*

*She mentioned her plans to me.*

Typical verbs used before to:

**bring, carry, deliver, describe, distribute, donate, explain, give, hand, introduce, lend, mention, pass, present, read, recommend, reveal, send, shout, show, sing, speak, submit, suggest, take, tell, write**

53—

## Toward

1 **Toward** means **in the direction of a place**.

**Pattern 1: verb + toward + noun**

*She ran toward the playground to see her friends.*

*Let's head toward the park.*

Typical verbs:

**blow, fly, go, head, hike, look, march, move, point, run, sail, turn, walk**

**Pattern 2: verb + noun + toward + noun**

*He guided us toward the cave.*

*They directed the girls toward the path.*

Typical verbs:

**direct, guide, lead, push, pull, shove, throw**

2 **Toward** indicates **attitude** about something.

**Pattern 1: be + adjective + toward + noun**

*She is very affectionate toward her parents.*

*They have been cool toward his proposals.*

Typical adjectives:

**affectionate, charitable, considerate, cool, friendly, gracious, hospitable, inhospitable, menacing, spiteful, warm**

**Pattern 2: noun + toward + noun**

*His feelings toward her have not changed.*

Typical nouns before toward:

**attitude, behavior, conduct, demeanor, feelings**

3 **Toward** indicates the **direction of action**.

**Pattern: verb + toward + noun**

*They are heading toward an agreement.*

*We worked toward a happy conclusion for everyone.*

Typical nouns after toward:

**agreement, argument, conclusion, ending, goal, vote**

Typical verbs:

**head, lean, push, take steps, work**

4 **Toward** indicates the object of a **contribution** or **partial payment**.

**Pattern: verb + toward + noun**

*The money will go toward helping the family.*

*She contributes toward his monthly expenses.*

Typical verbs:

**contribute, donate, give, go, help**

54—

## Towards

1 **Towards** means **near a period of time**.

### **Pattern 1: towards + noun**

*I always feel hungry towards dinnertime.*

Typical nouns used after towards:

**dawn, dinnertime, dusk, evening, lunchtime, mid-afternoon, midnight, noon**

### **Pattern 2: towards + the + end/middle + of + the + noun**

*We start getting ready for school towards the end of the summer.*

Typical nouns used with this pattern:

**class, concert, course, day, fall, flight, game, month, party, period, season, semester, show, spring, summer, trip, vacation, week, winter, year**





55—

## Under

1 **Under** means **in a lower position** than something else.

Pattern 1: verb + under + noun

*We sat under the tree and had a picnic.*

**Pattern 2: verb + noun + under + noun**

*Let's put the desk under the window; then we'll have a great view.*

2 **Under** means **covered by something else; underneath**.

Pattern 1: verb + under + noun

*The children hid under the table, thinking we couldn't see them.*

Typical verbs before under:

be, hide, lie, rest, sit, sleep, stand, wait, walk

**Pattern 2: verb + noun + under + noun**

*She stores all her boxes under the bed.*

Typical verbs:

bury, find, hide, place, push, put, store, wear

3 **Under** means **less than**.

**Pattern: under + noun**

*I'm sure she was driving under the speed limit.*

*He has three children under age ten.*

Nouns commonly used after under:

any number, age, average, height, limit, maximum, minimum, norm weight

**Expression:**

to be under age—to not be old enough to do something

*She can't vote because she is under age.*

4 **Under** can indicate **control**.

**Pattern 1: under + noun**

*Under this boss we have little freedom to express our own ideas.*

*You have a lot more benefits under the new insurance policy.*

Typical nouns used after under:

boss, coach, contract, dictator, doctor, general, king, mayor, policy, principal,

**president, professor, supervisor, teacher**

**Pattern 2: under + the + noun + of + noun**

*She is under the care of a doctor.*

Typical nouns after under the:

**administration, care, control, dictatorship, direction, eye, management, presidency**

**Pattern 3: under + ø + noun**

*The children are under supervision at all times.*

*They were arrested under orders of the chief.*

56—

## Underneath

1 **Underneath** means **in a lower position** than something else.

*The sheets are underneath the blankets on the shelf.*

2 **Underneath** means **covered by**.

*I found my jacket underneath the other coats.*

3 **Underneath** indicates **concealed feelings**.

*Underneath her smile there is a lot of heartache.*

*He is really very kind underneath his stern appearance.*



57—

## Until

1 **Until** indicates the **time of change** of an activity or situation.

**Pattern 1: verb + until + time**

*They waited until six o'clock.*

*The boys studied until midnight.*

**Pattern 2: verb + until + beginning of event**

*They lived here until their wedding; then they left.*

*She was busy until her graduation.*

*They didn't watch the game until halftime.*



58—

Up

1 Up indicates **movement to a higher place.**

**Pattern 1: verb + up + noun**

*The cat climbed up the tree.*

*She always walks up the steps to the fifth floor.*

Typical verbs used before up:

**climb, creep, go, jump, move, pop, race, run, walk**

**Pattern 2: verb + noun + up + noun**

*Bring the box up the steps.*

Typical verbs used with this pattern:

**bring, carry, drag, heave, move, send, take**

2 Up (adverb) indicates **location at a high place.**

**Pattern: be + up**

*The balloon is up.*

**Expression:**

to be up—to be awake

*I am up every day by eight o'clock.*

3 Up indicates **location further along the way.**

**Pattern: verb + up + noun**

*Their farm is three miles up the road.*

*She lives two blocks up the street.*

4 Up indicates **movement along a way.**

**Pattern 1: verb + up + noun**

*She is going to travel up Route 66.*

Nouns commonly used after up:

**highway, path, road, street, turnpike, way**

**Pattern 2: verb + noun + up + noun**

*We will drive four more miles up the highway.*

5 Up indicates **movement against a current of water.**

**Pattern: verb + up + noun**

*They swam up the river for exercise.*

Typical verbs used before up:

**cruise, drive, go, row, sail, swim**

6 Up indicates a **desired result**.

**Pattern: verb + up + noun**

*They are trying to drum up support.*

Typical verbs:

**drum, round, scrape, work**



59—

**With**

1 **With** means **in the company of**.

**Pattern 1: verb + with + noun**

*She is with her sister.*

*I danced with him.*

Typical verbs used before with:

**be, chat, converse, dance, drink, eat, go, leave, live, play, stay, study, talk, travel, walk, work**

**Pattern 2: verb + noun + with + noun**

*She spent the weekend with us.*

Typical verbs used with this pattern:

**dance, drink, eat, leave, play, spend, study**

**Expressions:**

to be tied up with—to be occupied with at the moment

*He can't come to the phone; he is tied up with a client.*

to be in a discussion with—to be talking seriously to

*The boss is in a discussion with the manager right now.*

2 **With** means **in the same place as**.

**Pattern 1: be + with + noun**

*My hat is with my scarf.*

**Pattern 2: verb + noun + with + noun**

*Put your coat with mine.*

*She left her children with the babysitter.*

Typical verbs:

**keep, leave, put, store**

3 **With** can mean **added together**.

**Pattern: noun + with + noun**

*She always drinks her coffee with sugar.*

*The hotel with meals will cost 200 dollars a day.*

4 **With** can describe something by indicating what it **has**.

**Pattern 1: noun + with + noun**

*Did you see a woman with a baby a few minutes ago?  
I have an article with pictures for my presentation.*

**Pattern 2: be + past participle + with + noun**  
*You will be provided with two sets of keys.*

Past participles used with this pattern:

**caught, discovered, found, furnished, provided, seen**

60—

## Within

1 **Within** means **not outside a place.**

**Pattern:** *be + within + noun*

*Those schools are within the county jurisdiction.*

*There is too much commotion within the building.*

Typical nouns used after within:

**area, building, city, country, county, jurisdiction, state, territory, walls**

2 **Within** means **less than a period of time.**

*I will return within the hour.*

*He will finish within five minutes.*

3 **Within** means **less than a distance.**

*There is a hospital within five miles of the school.*

*The storm was within ten miles of our town.*

4 **Within** means **possible; not exceeding the limits of something.**

**Pattern:** *be + within + (one's) noun*

*At last, the beach is within sight!*

*A fortune is within our reach if we are lucky.*

Typical nouns after within:

**bounds, hearing, range, sight, reach, the law, the limit, the rules**

## 5 Expression

to keep within the family—to not reveal something to anyone who is not a family member

*That man has a strange history, but they keep it within the family.*



61—

## Without

1 **Without** indicates the **absence of somebody**.

*I can't live without you.*

*Please don't leave without me.*

2 **Without** means **not having**.

**Pattern:** verb + without + (any) noun

*That young mother manages without any help.*

*We are without money this month.*

3 **Without** means **not using**.

**Pattern:** verb + noun + without + noun

*We did the crossword puzzle without a dictionary.*

*She can't read without her glasses.*

4 **Without** means **not performing an action**.

**Pattern:** without + verb in gerund form

*She passed the test without studying.*

*He left without saying good-bye.*

## 5 Expressions

without a doubt—certainly

*She is without a doubt the best chairman we have ever had.*

without fail—a demand or promise to do something

*Be here at six A.M. without fail.*

*I will finish within three days without fail.*

without ceremony—immediately and quietly

*He took charge without ceremony and began to work.*

that goes without saying—that is understood to be true

*You will be paid well for your work; that goes without saying.*



## **PART TWO— PREPOSITIONS BY FUNCTION**





## Time

### BEFORE

—previous to a time

*Ten o'clock is before eleven o'clock.*

### DURING

—for part of a period

*He slept during the day. (He slept from two P.M. until four P.M.)*

—at the same time as another event

*She slept during the football game.*

### AT AROUND, AT ABOUT

—at an approximate time

*We will leave at around six.  
We will get there at about seven.*

### TO, OF

—minutes before the hour

*It's ten to four.  
It's ten of four.*

### BETWEEN

—after a time, and before another time

*They will arrive between five and six.*

### BEYOND, PAST

—after a time

*Our guests stayed beyond midnight.  
Our guests stayed past midnight.*

### FOR

—during a length of time

*They have been here for a week.*

### IN

**in time**—not too late for an event

*Try to get here in time to help me.*

—a century, decade, year, season, month

*He lived in the sixteenth century.  
That singer was popular in the eighties.  
We came here in the fall.*

### AFTER

—subsequent to a time

*Three o'clock is after two o'clock.*

### THROUGH, THROUGHOUT

—for an entire period, and after

*He slept through the day. (He slept from 9 A.M. until 9 P.M.)*

*He slept throughout the day.*

### BY

—no later than a time

*We have to be there by seven-fifteen.*

**by the time**—when

*By the time you get here, we will have left.*

### TOWARDS

—nearing a period of time

*It was towards evening when she called.*

### WITHIN

—between now and a length of time

*They will be here within ten minutes.*

### UNTIL

—up to, but not after a time

*The party will last until ten.*

### SINCE

—between a past time and now

*They have been here since last Thursday.*

### ON

**on time**—at the required time

*He is punctual; he always arrives on time.*

**on the dot**—at the exact minute

*Be here at ten o'clock on the dot.*

—a day, days, a date, dates

*She is coming on Monday.  
She doesn't work on Tuesdays.  
I heard that singer on my birthday.*



**Exercise 1—****Write the Correct Preposition in Each Blank:**

1. Their daughter was born \_\_\_\_\_ 1998  
\_\_\_\_\_ October  
\_\_\_\_\_ the 18th  
\_\_\_\_\_ four-thirty  
\_\_\_\_\_ the afternoon.
2. I haven't seen my friend \_\_\_\_\_ August.
3. He was here \_\_\_\_\_ two weeks.
4. The play starts \_\_\_\_\_ seven o'clock \_\_\_\_\_ the dot, so be sure to be here \_\_\_\_\_ six-fifty.
5. Her mother is going to be here \_\_\_\_\_ the tenth \_\_\_\_\_ July. She will be here \_\_\_\_\_ two weeks.
6. Our neighbors always have a party \_\_\_\_\_ New Year's Eve. It usually starts \_\_\_\_\_ ten o'clock and lasts \_\_\_\_\_ the next morning.
7. Some people never go out \_\_\_\_\_ night because they get up so early \_\_\_\_\_ the morning.
8. Four o'clock is \_\_\_\_\_ five o'clock.
9. The baby didn't sleep \_\_\_\_\_ the night because he was so hungry.
10. I heard a noise \_\_\_\_\_ the night, but I was too sleepy to get up.
11. \_\_\_\_\_ the moment we are trying to study.
12. Some of us couldn't finish the test because the time was \_\_\_\_\_.



## Location

### IN

—a continent, a country, a state, a city, a town

*She lives in California.*

*She lives in San Francisco.*

—a room, an area of a room

*She is in the kitchen, in the corner.*

*Our theater seats are in the balcony.*

—a comfortable chair

*He sat in the chair and watched television.*

**in bed**—under the covers

—the water, the air, the environment

*They are swimming in the water.*

*There is pollution in the air.*

—the center, the middle

*Our house is in the center of town.*

—the north/south/east/west

*New England is in the north of the United States.*

—a bodily attack

*The stone hit me in the face.*

—a vehicle one cannot walk around in (car/small boat/small plane/helicopter)

*Please ride in the car with us.*

### ON

—a street, a floor

*She lives on Oak Street.*

*She lives on the fourth floor.*

—an outside area

*He is standing on the corner.*

*He has an outdoor grill on the balcony.*

—a straight chair, a sofa, a couch

*He sat on the chair and ate his dinner.*

*We sat on the sofa and watched television.*

**on the bed**—on top of the covers

—facing a coast, a beach

*The house is on the beach.*

—the side, left, right, surface

*Our house is on the left side of the street.*

—the north side/south side/east side/west side

*Our house is on the south side of town.*

—the surface of the body

*He has a scratch on his arm.*

—a vehicle one can walk around on (bus/train/large boat/airplane)

*Please ride on the bus with us.*

—an individual vehicle (horse, bicycle, motorcycle, skates)

*He came over on his bike.*

### AT

—a building, a house or apartment number

*She lives at The Manor.*

*She lives at 1260 Oak Street.*

**at home**—in one's own house

**at work**—at one's job

**at school**—attending school

**at church**—attending church services

—a work area inside

*She is at the kitchen sink.*

—the coast, the beach

*The whole family is at the beach.*

—the beginning, start, end

*Our house is at the end of the street.*













**Exercise 2—**  
**Write in the Correct Prepositions**

A. Where is the star?

1.  \_\_\_\_\_ the box
2.  \_\_\_\_\_ the box

- B. Her apartment is \_\_\_\_\_ Florida,  
\_\_\_\_\_ Miami,  
\_\_\_\_\_ The Palms  
\_\_\_\_\_ Ocean Drive  
\_\_\_\_\_ number 407.

3.  \_\_\_\_\_ the box
4.  \_\_\_\_\_ the box
5.  \_\_\_\_\_ the box
6.  \_\_\_\_\_ the box
7.  \_\_\_\_\_ the box
8.  \_\_\_\_\_ the box
9.  \_\_\_\_\_ the box
10.  \_\_\_\_\_ the box
11.  \_\_\_\_\_ the boxes
12.  \_\_\_\_\_ the boxes

She lives \_\_\_\_\_ the fourth floor  
 \_\_\_\_\_ a very nice  
 apartment.

She is often \_\_\_\_\_ school  
 or \_\_\_\_\_ work.

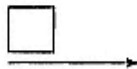
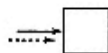
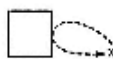
When she is \_\_\_\_\_ home, she is usually  
 asleep \_\_\_\_\_ bed.

However, right now she is  
 \_\_\_\_\_ the kitchen,  
 \_\_\_\_\_ the stove, cooking.

Soon she will sit down  
 \_\_\_\_\_ a dining room  
 chair  
 \_\_\_\_\_ the table  
 \_\_\_\_\_ the corner, to  
 eat her dinner.




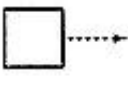


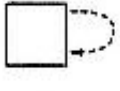
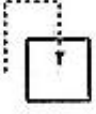
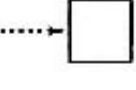
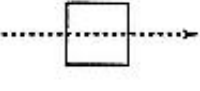

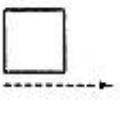
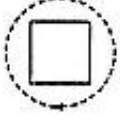
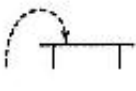
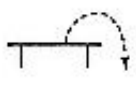
She will probably be out  
 \_\_\_\_\_ the balcony  
 after dinner,  
 sitting \_\_\_\_\_ a comfortable  
 chair and relaxing.



**Direction****ACROSS**The line goes **across** the box.**ALONG, BY**The line goes **along** the box.  
The line goes **by** the box.**PAST**The line goes **past** the box.**THROUGH**The line goes **through** the box.**AROUND**The line goes **around** the box.**TO, TOWARD**The solid line goes **to** the box.  
The dotted line goes **toward** the box.**FROM, AWAY FROM**The line goes **from** the box.  
The line goes **away from** the box.**BACK TO**The line goes **back to** the box.**BACK FROM**The dotted line comes **back from** the box.**IN, INTO**The line goes **in** the box.  
The line goes **into** the box.**OUT OF**The line goes **out of** the box.**ONTO**The line goes **onto** the table.**OFF**The line goes **off** the table.**OVER**The line goes **over** the hill.**DOWN**The line goes **down** the hill.**UP**The line goes **up** the hill.**WITH**The boat sails **with** the wind.**FOR**The plane is leaving **for** Spain.



***Exercise 3—  
Where Is the Dotted Line Going?***

1.  \_\_\_\_\_ the box
2.  \_\_\_\_\_ the box
3.  \_\_\_\_\_ the box
4.  \_\_\_\_\_ the box
5.  \_\_\_\_\_ the box
6.  \_\_\_\_\_ the box
7.  \_\_\_\_\_ the box
8.  \_\_\_\_\_ the box
9.  \_\_\_\_\_ the box
10.  \_\_\_\_\_ the box
11.  \_\_\_\_\_ the box
12.  \_\_\_\_\_ the box
13.  \_\_\_\_\_ the box
14.  \_\_\_\_\_ the table
15.  \_\_\_\_\_ the table



## Number

About, around, above, over, under, and between are adverbs when used before numbers.

### ABOUT, AROUND

approximately

*There were about 200 people there.*

*There were around 200 people there.*

### ABOVE, OVER

more than

*She has over a hundred books on that subject.*

*She has above a hundred books on that subject.*

### UNDER

less than

\$895

*The car costs under a thousand dollars.*

### BETWEEN

higher than one number and lower than another

\$21.50

*The tickets will cost between twenty and twenty-five dollars.*

### PLUS

indicates addition

$5 + 6 = 11$

*Five plus six equals eleven.*

### FROM

indicates subtraction

$10 - 3 = 7$

*Three from ten equals seven.*

### BY

indicates multiplication

$3 \times 4 = 12$

*Three multiplied by four equals twelve.*

### INTO

indicates division

$$\begin{array}{r} 4 \\ 3 \overline{)12} \end{array}$$

*Three into twelve equals four.*



**OF**

indicates a fraction

*One-half of twelve is six.*

*One-third of nine is three.*

*Three-quarters of twelve is nine.*

$$1/2 \times 12 = 6 \ 1/3$$

$$\times 9 = 3 \ 3/4 \times 12$$

$$= 9$$

indicates all, part, or none of a specific plural or noncount noun, following **all, many, much, a lot, lots, plenty, enough, several, some, a few, a little, a bit, none**

*All of the books on the table are yours.*

*Some of the money went to charity.*

*None of the furniture is valuable.*

**Exercise 4—****Fill in Each Blank with the Appropriate Word:**

1. He has (approximately) \_\_\_\_\_ 500 dollars in cash.
2. There are (more than) \_\_\_\_\_ twenty-five people here.
3. I paid (less than) \_\_\_\_\_ ten dollars for this meal.
4. The number six is \_\_\_\_\_ one and twelve.
5.  $7 + 4 = 11$  Seven \_\_\_\_\_ four equals eleven.
6.  $12 - 2 = 10$  Two \_\_\_\_\_ twelve equals ten.
7.  $2 \overline{)12}^6$  Two \_\_\_\_\_ twelve equals six.
8. One-tenth \_\_\_\_\_ one hundred equals ten.





## Weather

### DURING

—weather events (a storm, flood, hurricane, tornado, earthquake)

*We stayed at home during the storm.*

### IN

—types of weather (good, bad, foul, stormy cloudy, humid, wet, dry, hot, cold, sticky)

**in the rain;**

**in the snow**

*They swim in good weather.*

*He walked home in the rain.*

*The children played in the snow.*

### ON

—types of days, periods of the day (nice days, sunny mornings, humid nights, rainy weekends)

*I sit on the balcony on sunny mornings.*

*We play cards on rainy weekends.*

### Exercise 5—

#### *Fill in the Blanks with the Correct Prepositions:*

1. I don't like to go out \_\_\_\_\_ bad weather.
2. The children love to play \_\_\_\_\_ the snow.
3. They have to stay inside \_\_\_\_\_ the storm.
4. We often go to the beach \_\_\_\_\_ sunny days.
5. She loves to walk \_\_\_\_\_ the rain.
6. She gets depressed \_\_\_\_\_ rainy days.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ the hurricane we stayed in the basement.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ cold days you have to wear a warm coat, a hat, and gloves.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ cold weather it is nice to sit by the fire.
10. What do you do \_\_\_\_\_ snowy evenings?

## Source of Information

### IN

—written material  
(book, magazine, article, newspaper)

*I read it in a book.*

*She found the article in a magazine. They saw him on television.*

### ON

—electronically  
(the radio, the Internet, the  
telephone, television)

*I heard it on the radio.*

### Exercise 6—

#### Fill in Each Blank with the Appropriate Preposition:

1. I saw your picture \_\_\_\_\_ the newspaper.
2. He found the information \_\_\_\_\_ the Internet.
3. She heard the news \_\_\_\_\_ television last night.
4. We looked up your number \_\_\_\_\_ the telephone directory.
5. I read that \_\_\_\_\_ a book.
6. He found those dates \_\_\_\_\_ an encyclopedia.
7. We watched that show \_\_\_\_\_ television.
8. The article was \_\_\_\_\_ a magazine.
9. There was a good program \_\_\_\_\_ the radio yesterday.
10. Did you talk to her \_\_\_\_\_ the telephone?

## Affiliation

### IN

—part of a group (association, bureau, category, choir, chorus, clan, club, division, family, fraternity, group, office, organization, society, sorority, union, political party)

*The children in that family are all good students.*

### OF

—related to origin of place, time, culture, generation, race, religion, sex

*The people of that city are very friendly.*

—a special member of a group

*She is the president of the college.*

### ON

—part of an exclusive group (board, committee, jury, panel, team, council, crew, faculty, honor roll, list, payroll, squad, staff)

*The women on that committee are snobs.*

### Exercise 7—

#### Fill in the Blanks with the Appropriate Prepositions:

1. She is \_\_\_\_\_ the female sex.
2. My sister is \_\_\_\_\_ the jury.
3. She is also \_\_\_\_\_ the women's chorus.
4. Her son is \_\_\_\_\_ the softball team.
5. His wife is \_\_\_\_\_ a different religion.
6. Is your brother \_\_\_\_\_ a fraternity at college?
7. She was the president \_\_\_\_\_ the senior class.
8. I think her cousin is \_\_\_\_\_ the school board.
9. She is \_\_\_\_\_ the garden club.
10. They are going to put you \_\_\_\_\_ the payroll next month.

## Description

<b>ABOUT</b>	<b>ABOVE</b>	<b>LIKE</b>	<b>OF</b>	<b>WITH</b>
—partially describing	—better than	—similar to	—having an unseen characteristic	—having a physical characteristic
<i>There is something cute about him.</i>	<i>He is above deceit.</i>	<i>He is (just) like his father.</i>	<i>She is a woman of honor.</i>	<i>I'm looking for a woman with red hair.</i>
<i>I don't see anything funny about that.</i>	<i>She is above cheating.</i>	<i>He looks like his father.</i>	<i>They are people of low morals.</i>	<i>He is the man with the broken arm.</i>

### **Exercise 8—**

#### ***Fill in the Blanks with the Appropriate Prepositions:***

1. He is \_\_\_\_\_ his brother.
2. She may be nasty, but she is \_\_\_\_\_ cruelty.
3. We don't know anything \_\_\_\_\_ that.
4. His reputation is spotless; he is a man \_\_\_\_\_ decency.
5. There is something special \_\_\_\_\_ him.
6. She's a little crazy, but there is something \_\_\_\_\_ her that I like.
7. Have you seen a man \_\_\_\_\_ white hair and glasses? I can't find my father.
8. He is very polite; he is a man \_\_\_\_\_ good manners.
9. I don't know anybody \_\_\_\_\_ him.
10. My friend is the girl \_\_\_\_\_ curly red hair.

## Wearing

**(Dressed) IN**

*He was dressed in black.*

*She came in a red dress.*

*They are always in jeans.*

**WITH . . . ON**

*He is the man with the black suit on.*

*She is the lady with the red dress on.*

*They are the students with jeans on.*

**HAVE . . . ON**

*The man has a black suit on.*

*The lady has a red dress on.*

*The students have jeans on.*

### *Exercise 9—*

#### *Fill in the Blanks with the Appropriate Words:*

1. The lady was dressed \_\_\_\_\_ red.
2. The lady had a red suit \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The lady \_\_\_\_\_ the red suit \_\_\_\_\_ is my sister.
4. The children who \_\_\_\_\_ blue jackets \_\_\_\_\_ are my nephews.
5. The children were \_\_\_\_\_ blue jackets.
6. The children had blue jackets \_\_\_\_\_.
7. I saw a man \_\_\_\_\_ black.
8. I saw a man \_\_\_\_\_ a black hat \_\_\_\_\_.
9. I saw a man who had \_\_\_\_\_ a black hat.
10. The students are always dressed \_\_\_\_\_ jeans.



**Topic*****Prepositions after Verbs:***

<b>ABOUT</b>		<b>AT</b>	<b>IN</b>	<b>OF</b>	<b>ON</b>	<b>OVER</b>
advise	know	aim	assist	advise	agree	argue
agree	laugh	glare	bask	complain	concentrate	battle
argue	lie	grab	cooperate	dream	expound	cry
ask	pray	hit	drown	hear	focus	fight
bother	question	laugh	help	inform	harp	grieve
brag	read	look	interest	know	insist	puzzle
care	remind	rush	invest	learn	report	sigh
complain	say	shoot	participate	remind	speak	worry
contact	sing	snatch	persist	sing	write	
cry	speak	stare	steep	speak		
do	talk	swing	submerge	talk		
dream	teach			tell		
fight	tell			think		
forget	think					
grieve	wonder					
harass	worry					
hear	write					
inform	yell					
joke						

***Exercise 10—******Fill in the Blanks with the Appropriate Prepositions:***

1. She advised me \_\_\_\_\_ my schedule.
2. We argued \_\_\_\_\_ money.
3. They don't know anything \_\_\_\_\_ cars.
4. He helped us \_\_\_\_\_ getting a loan.



5. He taught me a lot \_\_\_\_\_ music.
6. They insisted \_\_\_\_\_ leaving early.
7. Are you going to invest \_\_\_\_\_ that business?
8. What are you looking \_\_\_\_\_?
9. Why did he persist \_\_\_\_\_ asking that question?
10. The girl is going to report \_\_\_\_\_ the environment.
11. One shouldn't cry \_\_\_\_\_ spilled milk.

## Recipient

### FOR

usually indicates benefit to recipient

#### after verbs:

bake, build, buy, cook, create, dance, design, do, get, make, play, sing, want something, win, work, write

*I wrote this poem for you.*

#### after nouns:

advice, answer, cure, gift help, idea, information, job, present, something, surprise letter, message, news, nothing, plan, project, question, secret

*Here is an answer for him.*

indicates effect on recipient

#### after adjectives:

bad, beneficial, better, crucial, good, harmful, healthy, helpful, important, necessary, unacceptable, unfavorable, unhealthy, unimportant, useful, worse

*That environment is unhealthy for you.*

### ON

Expressions:

#### have pity/mercy

*Please have pity on them. The boss had mercy on us and let us go home early.*

#### pull a gun/knife on

*The thief pulled a gun on the frightened workers.*

### TO

usually indicates transfer to recipient

#### after verbs:

award, bring, carry, dedicate, deliver, describe, devote, distribute, donate, explain, give, hand, introduce, lend, mention, pass, present, read, recommend, reveal, send, shout, show, sing, speak, submit, suggest, take, tell, write

*I wrote this letter to you.*

#### after nouns:

answer, award, bill, dedication, gift, letter, memorial, monument, present, plaque, remark, scholarship, statement, toast

*They gave the answer to him.*

indicates effect on recipient

harmful helpful useful beneficial  
detrimental unfavorable

*His advice was very useful to her.*

indicates recipient's feelings

#### after adjectives:

abhorrent, acceptable, annoying, boring, confusing, crucial, distasteful, disturbing, fascinating, gratifying, hurtful, important, meaningful, obnoxious, pleasing, precious, preferable, repulsive, satisfying, unacceptable,

unimportant, vexing, worrisome

***Those comments were hurtful to us.***

**Exercise 11—****Fill in the Blanks with the Appropriate Prepositions:**

1. I hope they give the award \_\_\_\_\_ him.
2. She cooked a big meal \_\_\_\_\_ us.
3. The police had mercy \_\_\_\_\_ the young hooligans and sent them home.
4. The travel agency had a lot of information \_\_\_\_\_ her.
5. They sent a lot of information \_\_\_\_\_ her.
6. The information was useful \_\_\_\_\_ her.
7. This fresh fruit is good \_\_\_\_\_ you.
8. The news was fascinating \_\_\_\_\_ him.
9. Is the contract acceptable \_\_\_\_\_ you?
10. Practicing is very good \_\_\_\_\_ me.
11. They prepared a wonderful surprise \_\_\_\_\_ her.
12. Is television harmful \_\_\_\_\_ children?



**State*****Nouns after Prepositions***

<b>AT</b>	<b>IN</b>		<b>ON</b>	<b>OUT OF</b>	<b>UNDER</b>
attention	a hurry	disarray	a roll	breath	consideration
ease	a mess	disaster	approval	commission	construction
leisure	a mood	disgrace	board	control	discussion
peace	a rage	disorder	call	danger	investigation
play	a stew	doubt	course	focus	suspicion
rest	anguish	dread	display	gear	
risk	awe	fear	duty	luck	
war	bankruptcy	focus	edge	order	
work	captivity	gear	fire	practice	
	chaos	good health	guard		
	charge	jail	high/low volume		
	check	luck	high/low speed		
	circulation	hot water	hold		
	comfort	love	leave		
	commission	need	loan		
	condition	order	one's best behavior		
	confinement	pain	order		
	conflict	power	parole		
	confusion	ruins	record		
	control	session	sale		
	danger	shape	schedule		
	debt	sickness	stand-by		
	demand	tears	strike		
	despair	trouble	tap		
			target		
			track		
			trial		

vacation

**Exercise 12—**

**Fill in the Blanks with the Appropriate Prepositions:**

1. The children were \_\_\_\_\_ breath when they finished the game.
2. The new houses are \_\_\_\_\_ construction.
3. She is \_\_\_\_\_ a big hurry.
4. The soldiers stood \_\_\_\_\_ attention.
5. All of the workers are \_\_\_\_\_ strike.
6. They sat there \_\_\_\_\_ comfort all afternoon.
7. I'm afraid she's \_\_\_\_\_ a lot of trouble.

## Separation

**FROM****after verbs:**

drive, keep, move, run,  
separate, stay, subtract,  
walk

**after adjectives:**

divorced, separated

**OF****after verbs:**

cure, die, relieve, rid

**after adjectives:**

cured, relieved, rid

**OFF****after verbs:**

break, chop, cut,  
pick, pull, saw, send,  
shave, take, tear,  
throw

**OUT OF****after verbs:**

come, drive, get, go,  
grab, move, pour,  
pull, push, rip, sip,  
squeeze, take, tear

**WITH****after verbs:**

be finished, be  
through, break  
up, cut ties, fall  
out, part, part  
company,  
sever relations,  
split up

### *Exercise 13—*

#### *Fill in the Blanks with the Appropriate Prepositions:*

1. I'm glad you finally got rid \_\_\_\_\_ that old car.
2. He drove \_\_\_\_\_ the garage in a big hurry.
3. Are you finished \_\_\_\_\_ that project yet?
4. She walked \_\_\_\_\_ school to her apartment every day.
5. They relieved her \_\_\_\_\_ all her important duties.
6. They are going to send their children \_\_\_\_\_ to camp for the summer.
7. We can't move into the office until they move \_\_\_\_\_ it.
8. Before doing the laundry, I want to separate the dark clothes \_\_\_\_\_ the white ones.
9. Have you seen Sally? She has cut \_\_\_\_\_ all her hair!
10. It is wonderful; he has been cured \_\_\_\_\_ cancer.



**Attitude*****Adjectives before Prepositions***

ABOUT	AT	BY	FOR	IN	OF	TO	WITH
angry	aghast	amazed	eager	disappointed	afraid	addicted	annoyed
anxious	amazed	amused	concerned	interested	ashamed	committed	bored
bashful	amused	annoyed	grateful*		disrespectful	dedicated	content
concerned	angry	bewildered	prepared		envious	devoted	delighted
confused	annoyed	bored	ready		fond	faithful*	disappointed
crazy	astonished	confused	sorry		in favor	grateful*	disgusted
excited	astounded	disgusted			jealous	opposed	fascinated
faithful*	indignant	embarrassed			mindful		frustrated
glad	shocked	fascinated			proud		happy
happy	speechless	frustrated			repentant		impressed
honest	surprised	irritated			respectful		irritated
mad	thrilled	shocked			sure		pleased
nervous	upset				suspicious		satisfied
objective					scared		thrilled
optimistic					sure		unhappy
pessimistic					terrified		upset
right					tired		
sad					trusting		
sick					uncertain		
silly					unsure		
sorry					wary		
unhappy							
upset							
worried							

\*grateful *to* a person/grateful *for* a thing

\*faithful *to* a person/faithful *about* doing something

***Exercise 14—******Fill in the Blanks with the Correct Prepositions:***

1. She is ashamed \_\_\_\_\_ her sloppy work.

2. Are you ready \_\_\_\_\_ the test?

3. We are grateful \_\_\_\_\_ you.
4. We are grateful \_\_\_\_\_ your help.
5. He is very annoyed \_\_\_\_\_ me.
6. Try to be objective \_\_\_\_\_ it.
7. They were shocked \_\_\_\_\_ the child's behavior.
8. I am interested \_\_\_\_\_ studying there.
9. He seems to be suspicious \_\_\_\_\_ us.
10. She is a little unsure \_\_\_\_\_ herself.

**Behavior***Adjectives before Prepositions*

<b>OF someone</b>	<b>ABOUT something</b>	<b>WITH something or someone else</b>	<b>TO someone else</b>	<b>TOWARD someone else</b>	<b>ON someone else</b>
bad	careless	awkward	charming	affectionate	easy
careless	charming	belligerent	considerate	charitable	hard
charming	crazy	careful	courteous	considerate	rough
crazy	cruel	careless	cruel	cool	soft
crude	good	clumsy	faithful	courteous	strict
cruel	honest	curt	friendly	friendly	tough
evil	kind	flexible	good	gracious	
good	mean	forthcoming	gracious	hospitable	
hateful	nasty	frank	hateful	inhospitable	
honest	nice	friendly	helpful	menacing	
ignorant	rude	generous	hospitable	spiteful	
irresponsible	selfish	honest	inhospitable	sympathetic	
kind	sweet	impatient	kind	thoughtful	
mean	thoughtful	open	mean	warm	
nasty	thoughtless	patient	nice		
nice	understanding	stiff	polite		
responsible	unkind	sympathetic	rude		
rude		truthful	sweet		
selfish			sympathetic		
sweet			truthful		
thoughtful			unkind		
thoughtless					
typical					
unconscionable					
understanding					
unkind					

**Exercise 15A—**

**Fill in the Blanks with the Correct Prepositions:**

1. She was impatient \_\_\_\_\_ us.
2. He was rude \_\_\_\_\_ our absence.
3. Try to be courteous \_\_\_\_\_ everyone.
4. The teacher is too hard \_\_\_\_\_ him.
5. Thank you for being so hospitable \_\_\_\_\_ my mother.
6. They have been very sympathetic \_\_\_\_\_ her.
7. The old man was generous \_\_\_\_\_ his money.
8. Do you think he is being honest \_\_\_\_\_ us?
9. She is faithful \_\_\_\_\_ her husband.
10. The landlord was nasty \_\_\_\_\_ my late payment.

***Verbs before Prepositions***

<b>AT</b>	<b>ON</b>	<b>TO</b>	<b>TOWARD</b>	<b>WITH</b>
cheer	center	adapt	contribute	agree
grumble	concentrate	admit	donate	collaborate
guess	dote	agree	give	comply
hint	dwell	appeal	go	concur
hoot	err	consent	head	cooperate
laugh	harp	listen	help	empathize
rebel	pick	object	lean	get along
rejoice	prey	pay attention	push	harmonize
snort	put pressure	react	take steps	help
tremble	wait	relate	work	negotiate
	work	reply		sympathize
		respond		work
		revert		
		subscribe		

***Exercise 15B—******Fill in the Blanks with the Correct Prepositions:***

1. He didn't respond \_\_\_\_\_ my letter.
2. You have to comply \_\_\_\_\_ the agreement.
3. We are working \_\_\_\_\_ our goals.
4. Try not to dwell \_\_\_\_\_ your problems.
5. I don't object \_\_\_\_\_ their coming.
6. They donated \_\_\_\_\_ several charities.
7. She is putting a lot of pressure \_\_\_\_\_ him.
8. I wish you wouldn't laugh \_\_\_\_\_ my mistakes.
9. They rejoiced \_\_\_\_\_ the news.
10. The children cried \_\_\_\_\_ delight.



**Prepositions before Nouns**

IN		WITH		IN/WITH	
assent	abandon	humility	anger	dread	
cold blood	anger	indifference	apprehension	earnest	
compliance	care	kindness	approbation	fairness	
confusion	compassion	joy	approval	fear	
consent	courage	love	compassion	friendship	
defeat	delight	malice	confidence	gratitude	
disgrace	despair	optimism	contempt	grief	
disobedience	discretion	pleasure	defiance	happiness	
dissent	disdain	pride	delight	kindness	
desolation	distress	regard	despair	pain	
fun	enthusiasm	sadness	disappointment	relief	
person	fear	shame	disbelief	sadness	
private	feeling	skill	disdain	shame	
public	glee	sympathy	disgust	sorrow	
reaction	grace	tenderness	dismay	sympathy	
someone's absence	gratitude	thanks	distress	trust	
someone's presence	happiness	understanding			
	hatred				

**Exercise 15C—****Fill in the Blanks with the Correct Prepositions:**

1. He resigned \_\_\_\_\_ disgrace.
2. She performed her duties \_\_\_\_\_ grace.
3. She hung her head \_\_\_\_\_ sorrow.
4. I told you that \_\_\_\_\_ confidence.
5. You have to deliver it \_\_\_\_\_ person.
6. The woman was clearly \_\_\_\_\_ pain.
7. She does her work \_\_\_\_\_ skill.
8. Please don't talk so loud \_\_\_\_\_ public.

9. The man was \_\_\_\_\_ discretion.

9. The matter must be treated \_\_\_\_\_ discretion.

10. She accepted the invitation \_\_\_\_\_ pleasure.



## **PART THREE— USING PREPOSITIONS**



## Prepositional Phrases

A prepositional phrase is a preposition plus an object.

There are three possible patterns:

preposition + noun

preposition + pronoun

preposition + verb + -ing

### PREPOSITION + NOUN

#### Singular Nouns

##### NORMAL PATTERNS

<u>preposition</u>	+	<u>noun determiner</u>	+/-	(descriptive adjectives)	+	<u>singular common noun</u>
with		a				pen
with		a		red		pen
with		a		new red		pen

**SINGULAR NOUN DETERMINERS: a/an, the, one, this, that, any, each, every, another, either, neither, my, your, his, her, its, our, their, Mary's (or any other possessive noun)**

##### EXCEPTION

<u>preposition</u>	+	<u>ø</u>	+	<u>singular common noun</u>
in				bed
to				school

#### *Singular Proper Nouns*

<u>preposition</u>	+	<u>ø</u>	+	<u>proper noun</u>
with				Mary
for				Mr. Jones

#### *Exercise 1A—*

***Correct the Mistakes in the Following Prepositional Phrases. Write the Correct Phrases in the Blank Spaces.***

- with pen \_\_\_\_\_
- for other girl \_\_\_\_\_
- to Mary cousin \_\_\_\_\_
- without book \_\_\_\_\_
- from nice boy \_\_\_\_\_

6. between Mary and other girl

---

7. in the Mary's house

---

8. for the another apple \_\_\_\_\_
9. next to tall boy \_\_\_\_\_
10. near the Mr. Johnson's house \_\_\_\_\_

***Plural Nouns*****NORMAL PATTERNS**

<b><u>preposition</u></b>	<b>+/-</b>	<b>(noun determiner)</b>	<b>+/-</b>	<b>(descriptive adjective)</b>	<b>+</b>	<b><u>plural common noun</u></b>
for						apples
for		the				apples
for				red		apples
for		the		red		apples

**PLURAL NOUN DETERMINERS:** the, two (or any higher number), these, those, any, no, either, neither, other, some, both, few, enough, plenty of, a lot of, lots of, many, all, my, your, his, her, its, our, their, Mary's (or any possessive noun)

A plural noun not preceded by a noun determiner indicates all of the group or in general.

***Plural Proper Nouns***

<b><u>preposition</u></b>	<b>+</b>	<b><u>the</u></b>	<b>+</b>	<b><u>proper noun</u></b>
for		the		Joneses
for		the		United States

***Exercise 1B—***

***Correct the Mistakes in the Following Prepositional Phrases. Write the Correct Phrases in the Blank Spaces.***

1. for three apple \_\_\_\_\_
2. without friend \_\_\_\_\_
3. in United States \_\_\_\_\_
4. from many country \_\_\_\_\_
5. to a lots of places \_\_\_\_\_
6. except this exercises \_\_\_\_\_
7. with another friends \_\_\_\_\_
8. at plenty of store \_\_\_\_\_
9. by other teacher \_\_\_\_\_
10. from the Smith \_\_\_\_\_



**Noncount Nouns**

## NORMAL PATTERNS

<u>preposition</u>	+/-	(noun determiner)	+/-	(descriptive adjective)	+	<u>noncount noun</u>
for						water
for		the				water
for				hot		water
for		this		hot		water

**NONCOUNT NOUN DETERMINERS: the, this, that, any, no, either, neither, some, little, enough, a lot of, lots of, plenty of, much, all, my, your, his, her, its, our, their, Mary's (or any possessive noun)**

A noncount noun not preceded by a noun determiner indicates all of the group or in general.

**Exercise 1C—**

**Correct the Mistakes in the Following Prepositional Phrases. Write the Correct Phrases in the Blank Spaces.**

1. for these furnitures \_\_\_\_\_
2. for a fresh air \_\_\_\_\_
3. with a new jewelry \_\_\_\_\_
4. without many hot water \_\_\_\_\_
5. with a few machinery \_\_\_\_\_
6. of a sugar \_\_\_\_\_
7. by mails \_\_\_\_\_
8. with too many junk \_\_\_\_\_
9. for a meat \_\_\_\_\_
10. for three equipment \_\_\_\_\_

**PREPOSITION + PRONOUN**

An object pronoun may replace a noun object.

<b>TO REPLACE</b>	<b>USE</b>	
the speaker	<b>me</b>	The letter is for <b>me</b> .
the person addressed	<b>you</b>	The letter is for <b>you</b> .
one male person (John)	<b>him</b>	The letter is for <b>him</b> .
one female person (Mary)	<b>her</b>	The letter is for <b>her</b> .
one thing (a book)	<b>it</b>	The letter is about <b>it</b> .

one thing (a book)

it

the letter is about it.



the speaker + one or more others	<b>us</b>	The letter is for <b>us</b> .
the people addressed	<b>you</b>	The letter is for <b>you</b> .
more than one person (John and Mary)	<b>them</b>	The letter is for <b>them</b> .
more than one thing (books)	<b>them</b>	The letter is about <b>them</b> .

If there is more than one object after a preposition, always use the object pronouns:

The letter is for <b>us</b> .	The letter is for <b>you</b> and <b>me</b> .
The letter is for <b>us</b> .	The letter is for <b>him</b> and <b>me</b> .
The letter is for <b>us</b> .	The letter is for <b>her</b> and <b>me</b> .
The letter is for <b>us</b> .	The letter is for <b>them</b> and <b>me</b> .
The letter is for <b>you</b> .	The letter is for <b>you</b> and <b>him</b> .
The letter is for <b>you</b> .	The letter is for <b>you</b> and <b>her</b> .
The letter is for <b>you</b> .	The letter is for <b>you</b> and <b>them</b> .
The letter is for <b>them</b> .	The letter is for <b>him</b> and <b>her</b> .
The letter is for <b>them</b> .	The letter is for <b>her</b> and <b>him</b> .
The letter is for <b>them</b> .	The letter is for <b>him</b> and <b>them</b> .
The letter is for <b>them</b> .	The letter is for <b>her</b> and <b>them</b> .

### ***Exercise 1D—***

#### ***Change the Underlined Nouns to Pronouns:***

1. She paid for the apples. \_\_\_\_\_
2. He is excited about the car. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Do you study with your classmates? \_\_\_\_\_
4. The rug was made by my grandmother. \_\_\_\_\_
5. She made it for my sister and me. \_\_\_\_\_
6. We will give it to our children. \_\_\_\_\_
7. She is very fond of that boy. \_\_\_\_\_
8. They put the papers in the trashcan last night. \_\_\_\_\_
9. Please don't step on the floor until it is dry. \_\_\_\_\_
10. He hopes to get a call from Sam and Mary tomorrow. \_\_\_\_\_
11. It won't be the same without David and Amy and you. \_\_\_\_\_
12. There has been a lot of tension between Susan and me. \_\_\_\_\_
13. She lives near John and me. \_\_\_\_\_
14. They have been very kind toward Sarah and the boys. \_\_\_\_\_

15. She seems to be getting over her problems.

---

—used to + basic verb means "did in the past."

*I used to work hard when I was in college.*

*We used to work at night, but now we work during the day.*

**Exercise 1E—**

**Fill in the Blanks with the Correct Form of the Verb:**

1. She has to decide between \_\_\_\_\_ (study) and \_\_\_\_\_ (work).
2. That machine is great for \_\_\_\_\_ (exercise) the leg muscles.
3. He saved a lot of money by \_\_\_\_\_ (take) the bus to work.
4. Are you used to \_\_\_\_\_ (drive) on the freeway?
5. We decided against \_\_\_\_\_ (buy) that house.
6. They tried to stop her from \_\_\_\_\_ (move) so far away.
7. I am tired of \_\_\_\_\_ (cook) and \_\_\_\_\_ (clean).
8. He is really good at \_\_\_\_\_ (play) the guitar.
9. She is very close to \_\_\_\_\_ (win) the race.
10. You had better eat something before \_\_\_\_\_ (take) the medicine.

**Choose work or working to complete the following:**

11. She isn't used to \_\_\_\_\_ on Sundays.
12. He used to \_\_\_\_\_ every night.
13. I am opposed to \_\_\_\_\_ tomorrow.
14. She is supposed to \_\_\_\_\_ tomorrow.
15. He admits to \_\_\_\_\_ too little.
16. He agrees to \_\_\_\_\_ tomorrow.
17. We promise to \_\_\_\_\_ next week.
18. He would like to \_\_\_\_\_ every day.
19. They look forward to \_\_\_\_\_ here.
20. She expects to \_\_\_\_\_ here.
21. I am limited to \_\_\_\_\_ here.
22. Have you decided to \_\_\_\_\_ here?
23. They aren't used to \_\_\_\_\_ every day.



## Prepositions in Questions

*A—*

### *Basic Sentences with Be*

STATEMENT PATTERN:

<b>subject</b>	+	<b>verb</b>	+	<b>preposition</b>	+	<b>object</b>
The letter		is		to		John.
The letter		is		about		money.
The letter		is		from		Springfield.
The letter		is		from		Virginia.

YES/NO QUESTION PATTERN:

<b>verb</b>	+	<b>subject</b>	+	<b>preposition</b>	+	<b>object?</b>
Is		the letter		to		John?
Is		the letter		about		money?
Is		the letter		from		Springfield?
Is		the letter		from		Virginia?

INFORMATION QUESTION PATTERN:

<b>question word</b>	+	<b>verb</b>	+	<b>subject</b>	+	<b>preposition?</b>
Who(m)*		is		the letter		to?
What		is		the letter		about?
Where		is		the letter		from?
What state		is		the letter		from?
Which state		is		the letter		from?

\***Whom** is used in writing and in formal speech. **Who** is used in conversation.

EXCEPTION:

The preposition at is not used with where or what time.

STATEMENTS:

The party is at my house.

The party is at ten o'clock.

QUESTIONS:

Where is the party? What time is the party?

**Exercise 2A—**

**Write a Question That Is Answered by the Underlined Word in Each Statement.**

1. Yes, the letter is from my mother.

2. No, I am not in Chicago.

3. We are from California.

4. They are from San Francisco.

5. The picture is of my sister.

6. The article is about dieting.

7. The class is at seven-thirty.

8. The concert is at Memorial Stadium.

**B—****Basic Sentences with Other Verbs**

STATEMENT PATTERN:

<b>subject</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>verb</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>preposition</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>object</b>
She		writes		to		John.
She		asks		about		money.
She		writes		from		Springfield.
She		writes		from		Virginia.

YES/NO QUESTION PATTERN:

<b>auxiliary verb</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>subject</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>verb</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>preposition</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>object?</b>
---------------------------	----------	----------------	----------	-------------	----------	--------------------	----------	----------------

Does	she	write	to	John?
Does	she	ask	about	money?
Does	she	write	from	Springfield?
Does	she	write	from	Virginia?



## INFORMATION QUESTION PATTERN:

<b>question word</b>	+	<b>auxiliary verb</b>	+	<b>subject</b>	+	<b>verb</b>	+	<b>preposition?</b>
Who(m)		does		she		write		to?
What		does		she		ask		about?
Where		does		she		write		from?
What state		does		she		write		from?
Which state		does		she		write		from?

## EXCEPTION:

The prepositions to and at are not used with where.

## STATEMENTS:

*The letter is going to Chicago.*

*We are staying at the Forum Hotel.*

## QUESTIONS:

*Where is the letter going?*

*Where are you staying?*

**Exercise 2B—**

**Write a Question That Is Answered by the Underlined Word in Each Statement.**

1. She works in the furniture department.

---

2. He calls from his office.

---

3. No, he doesn't send e-mail to me.

---

4. He sends e-mail to his boss.

---

5. Yes, he drives through Washington.

---

6. He drives through Washington.

---

7. They talk about the garden.

---

## Prepositions in Noun Clauses

A question word often connects statements containing the verbs know, understand, wonder, ask, and tell with a noun clause (subject + verb combination).

**introduction** + **question word** + **noun clause**

I know

I don't know

Do you know                    who                    he is.(?)

I understand

I wonder

Ask him

Tell us

## Basic Patterns for Prepositions in Noun Clauses:

### A. CLAUSES WITH *BE*

<b>introduction</b>	+	<b>question word</b>	+	<b>subject</b>	+	<b>verb</b>	+	<b>preposition</b>
I know		who(m)		the letter		is		to.
I know		what		the letter		is		about.
I know		where		the letter		is		from.
I know		what state		the letter		is		from.
I know		which state		the letter		is		from.

### B. CLAUSES WITH OTHER VERBS

<b>introduction</b>	+	<b>question word</b>	+	<b>subject</b>	+	<b>verb (object)</b>	+	<b>preposition</b>
I know		who(m)		she		writes letters		to.
I know		what		she		asks		for.
I know		where		she		writes		from.

I know                      what state                      she                      writes                      from.

***Exercise 3—***

***Complete Each Answer:***

**1.** Where is she from?

I don't know

---

**2.** Who(m) is he talking to?

I don't know

---

**3.** What does she write with?

I wonder \_\_\_\_\_

---

## Prepositions in Adjective Clauses

An adjective clause can identify a noun. The clause comes right after the noun.

### *Basic Patterns for Prepositions in Adjective Clauses:*

A. TO IDENTIFY A PERSON, AN ADJECTIVE CLAUSE CAN BEGIN WITH **WHO(M), THAT, OR Ø:**

person	+	introduction	+	adjective clause				
				subject	+	verb (object)	+	preposition
The man		who(m)		she		writes		to
The man		that		she		writes		to
The man		—		she		writes		to
The people		who(m)		we		live		with
The people		that		we		live		with
The people		—		we		live		with
The doctor		who(m)		I		ask		for
The doctor		that		I		ask		for
The doctor		—		I		ask		for

Make sure the adjective clause is right after the noun:

<i>The man who(m) she writes to</i>	<i>is my father.</i>
<i>The people that we live with</i>	<i>are nice.</i>
<i>The doctor I always ask for</i>	<i>isn't here.</i>
<i>My father is</i>	<i>the man who(m) she writes to.</i>
<i>I really like</i>	<i>the people that we live with.</i>
<i>This is not</i>	<i>the doctor I always ask for.</i>

B. TO IDENTIFY A THING, AN ADJECTIVE CLAUSE CAN BEGIN WITH **THAT** OR **Ø**.

thing	+	introduction	+	adjective clause				
				subject	+	verb	+	(object)
the book		that		I		paid ten dollars		for

the book	—	I	paid	for
the house	that	they	are looking	at
the house	—	they	are looking	at
the cities	that	we	work	in
the cities	—	we	work	in

Be sure to put the adjective clause directly after the noun.

<i>The book that I paid ten dollars for</i>	<i>is great.</i>
<i>The house they are looking at</i>	<i>is expensive.</i>
<i>The cities that we work in</i>	<i>are far apart.</i>

*I really like*                      *the book I paid ten dollars for.*  
*They might buy*                *the house they are looking at.*  
*We love*                            *the cities we work in.*

**Exercise 4—**

**Combine Each Set of Sentences into One Sentence by Forming an Adjective Clause.**

1. The man is my father. She writes letters to him.

---

2. The house is beautiful. My friends are looking at it.

---

3. Those are the children. My daughter plays with them.

---

4. The teacher isn't here. We talked to her yesterday.

---

5. The piano is fabulous. He paid a lot of money for it.

---

6. I am looking for the boy. I gave five dollars to him.

---

7. She likes the neighbor. She goes to the movies with him.

---

8. I lost the bag. I put my money in it.

---

9. I found the jacket. I took my keys out of it.

---

10. He can't remember the street. He parked on it.

---





## Phrasal Verbs

A phrasal verb is a verb followed by a preposition that narrows or changes the meaning of the verb. Learn the verb and the preposition together as one unit.

There are three types of phrasal verbs—nonseparable separable intransitive

Each has its own set of word-order patterns.

### NONSEPARABLE COMBINATIONS

Example: look for means "search."

#### Word order:

The object—noun or pronoun—immediately follows the preposition.

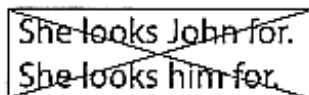
Statement Pattern:

**subject + verb-preposition + noun or pronoun**

She is looking for John.

She is looking for him.

Incorrect:



**Question Pattern 1:** Use with what, which, who(m), and whose.

**question word + auxiliary verb + subject + verb + preposition?**

What are you looking for?

Which book were you looking for?

Who(m) are you looking for?

Whose book did you look for?

**Question Pattern 2:** Use with why, when, and how.

**question word + auxiliary verb + subject + verb-preposition + noun or pronoun**

Why are you looking for John?

When did you look for him?

How long have you been looking for him?

Where have you looked for him?

Incorrect:

~~Why are you looking John for?~~  
~~Why are you looking him for?~~

## Noun Clauses

**Pattern 1:** Use with what, which, who(m), and whose.

introduction	+	question		+	noun clause		
		word	+	(object)	subject	+	verb + preposition
I don't know		what		book	you		are looking for.
I don't know		which		book	you		are looking for.
I don't know		who(m)			you		are looking for.
I don't know		whose		book	you		are looking for.

**Pattern 2:** Use with why, where, when, and how.

introduction	+	question word	+	subject	+	verb	+	preposition	+	object
I don't know		why		you		are looking for				the book.
I don't know		where		you		have looked for				it.
I don't know		when		you		looked for				it.
I don't know		how		you		can look for				it.

## Adjective Clauses

**Pattern 1:**

subject	+	<i>adjective clause</i>								
		who(m) that	+	subject	+	verb	+	preposition	+	verb
		ø								
The man		who(m)		he		was looking for				is my father.
The book		that		he		was looking for				is on the table.

**Pattern 2:**

subject	+	verb	+	object	+	<i>adjective clause</i>						
						who(m) that	+	subject	+	verb	+	preposition
						ø						
I		see		the man		who(m)		you		are looking		for.
We		found		the book		that		you		were looking		for.

### Examples of Nonseparable Combinations

act like, ask for

beg off, break into

call on, care about, care for, check into, come across, come after, count on

fall for, fall off

get around, get off, get in, get on, get over, get with

go for, go over, go through, go with

hear from, hear of

keep at, keep off, keep on  
lay off, live for, live on, live through  
look after, look at, look for, look into, look over, look through  
pick at, pick on  
run across, run by, run for, run into, run over  
see through, see to, show through, stand by, stand for  
take after

**Exercise 5A—**

**Rewrite Each Sentence, Changing the Noun Object to a Pronoun:**

1. We asked for *the information*.

---

2. She is going to call on *Mary and Carolyn* next week.

---

3. They just got on *the bus to Chicago*.

---

4. I came across *some old family pictures*.

---

5. The policeman is coming after *you and Jessica*.

---

6. She ran into *some old friends* at the mall.

---

7. I am going to stand by *my friend*.

---

8. He just went through *all his papers*.

---

9. We are looking for *Jason's wallet*.

---

10. That boy takes after *his father*.

---



**Exercise 5B—**

**Write a Question for Each of the Sentences in the Previous Exercise.**

Example:

1. What did you ask for \_\_\_\_\_ ?
2. Whom \_\_\_\_\_ ?
3. Which bus \_\_\_\_\_ ?
4. What \_\_\_\_\_ ?
5. Who(m) \_\_\_\_\_ ?
6. Who(m) \_\_\_\_\_ ?
7. Who(m) \_\_\_\_\_ ?
8. What \_\_\_\_\_ ?
9. Whose \_\_\_\_\_ ?
10. Whom \_\_\_\_\_ ?

**Exercise 5C—**

**Use the Phrasal Verb and Tense Indicated to Complete Each Sentence:**

1. I don't know what you \_\_\_\_\_.  
(look for, present progressive)
2. He asked me what I \_\_\_\_\_.  
(go through, past progressive)
3. She didn't tell us which hotel she \_\_\_\_\_.  
(check into, past perfect)
4. I want to know whom he \_\_\_\_\_.  
(care about, present)
5. I wonder what office she \_\_\_\_\_.  
(run for, present progressive)

**Exercise 5D—**

**Complete Each Sentence Using an Adjective Clause:**

1. He was looking for a book.

This is the book \_\_\_\_\_.

**2.** Somebody broke into a house on this street.

Is that the house \_\_\_\_\_?

**3.** She hopes to hear from that company soon.

What is the name of the company \_\_\_\_\_?



## Noun Clauses

**Pattern 1:** Use with why, when, how, and where

<b>introduction</b>	+	<b>question word</b>	+	<b>noun clause</b>						
				<b>subject</b>	+	<b>verb</b>	+	<b>preposition</b>	+	<b>noun object</b>
I don't know		why		he		crossed out				the mistake.
I don't know		when		he		crossed out				the mistake.
I don't know		how		she		looked up				her friend.
I don't know		where		she		looked up				her friend.

Incorrect:

<del>I don't know why he crossed out it.</del>
<del>I don't know how he looked up her.</del>

**Pattern 2:** Use with why, when, how, and where

<b>introduction</b>	+	<b>question word</b>	+	<b>subject</b>	+	<b>verb</b>	+	<b>object</b>	+	<b>preposition</b>
I don't know		why		he		crossed		the mistake		out.
I don't know		when		he		crossed		it		out.
I don't know		how		she		looked		her friend		up.
I don't know		where		she		looked		him		up.

**Pattern 3:** Use with what, which, who(m), and whose

<b>introduction</b>	+	<b>question word</b>	+	<b>object</b>	+	<b>subject</b>	+	<b>verb</b>	+	<b>preposition</b>
I don't know		what				he		crossed		out.
I don't know		what		mistake		he		crossed		out.
I don't know		which		mistake		he		crossed		out.
I don't know		whom				she		looked		up.
I don't know		whose		name		she		looked		up.

## Adjective Clauses

**Pattern:**

<b>subject</b>	+	<b>verb</b>	+	<b>object</b>	+	<b>adjective clause</b>						
						<b>that who(m)</b>	+	<b>subject</b>	+	<b>verb</b>	+	<b>preposition</b>
This		is		the mistake		that		he		crossed		out.
This		is		the mistake				he		crossed		out.
He		is		the friend		whom		she		looked		up.
He		is		the friend				she		looked		up.



**Examples of Separable Combinations:**

ask out  
blow down, blow out, blow up  
break down, break in, break up  
bring about, bring back, bring down, bring on, bring up  
call back, call off, call up, carry out, carry through, check off, check out  
cheer up, chew out, clean up, cross out, cut down, cut out  
do in, do over, draw up, drop by, drop in, drop off  
figure out, fill in, fill out, fill up, find out, follow through  
get across, get back, get in, get off, get on, get out  
give back, give out  
hand in, hand out, hand over, hang up, have on, have over, hold up  
keep on, keep up, kick around, kick out, kick over, knock out  
leave out, let down, look over, look up  
make up, mark down, mark up, mix up  
name after  
pass in, pass on, pass out, pass over, pass up  
pay back, pick out, pick over, pick up, point out, pull off, pull over  
put back, put down, put on, put off, put out  
rip off, round off, run by, run down, run up  
see through, set up, show around, show up, shut off, stand up, start over  
take back, take down, take for, take in, take off, take on, take out, take over, take up  
tear down, tear off, tear out, tear up, think over, think up, throw out, try on, try out  
turn around, turn down, turn in, turn off, turn on, turn over, turn up  
wake up, wash out, wear out, work out, wrap up, write down, write up

***Exercise 5E—******Rewrite Each Sentence, Changing the Underlined Nouns to Pronouns:***

1. The wind blew down two trees.

The wind blew them down.

2. The teacher came in and broke up the party.

---

3. Don't bring up that subject.

---

4. Are you going to call off the wedding?

---

5. We will clean up the mess.

---

6. I have to fill out these forms.

---

7. She is trying to get the mud off her shoes.

---

8. Did you give back the money?

---

9. We looked up your sister in Pittsburgh.

---

10. He always mixes up the twins.

---

**Exercise 5F—**

***Rewrite Each Sentence Two Ways, Changing the Pronouns to the Nouns Indicated:***

1. They looked it over. (the new house)

They looked the new house over.

They looked over the new house.

2. We are going to pass them in. (our papers)

---

3. He has to pay it back. (the money)

---

4. Did they kick her out? (Jennifer)

---

5. I hope she doesn't pass it up. (this opportunity)

---

***Separable Combinations with an Additional Preposition***

When another preposition is added to a separable combination, the object, noun, or pronoun always goes between the verb and the two prepositions.

Pattern: verb + noun/pronoun + preposition + preposition + noun

Example: to take out of—to remove something from within

Statement:

***He took the money out of his back pocket.***

***He took it out of his pocket.***



Question:	<i>What did he take <u>the money</u> out of? Which pocket did he take <u>it</u> out of?</i>
Noun Clause:	<i>I don't know which pocket he took <u>the money</u> out of. I don't know which pocket he took <u>it</u> out of.</i>
Adjective Clause:	<i>This is the pocket (that) he took <u>the money</u> out of. This is the pocket he took <u>it</u> out of.</i>

Example: to give back to—to return something to somebody

Statement:	We gave <u>the letter</u> back to her. We gave <u>it</u> back to her.
Question:	Who(m) did you give <u>the letter</u> back to? Who(m) did you give <u>it</u> back to?
Noun Clause:	I don't know who(m) we gave <u>the letter</u> back to. I don't know who(m) we gave <u>it</u> back to.
Adjective Clause:	She is the girl who(m) we gave <u>it</u> back to. She is the girl we gave <u>the letter</u> back to.

Examples of Separable Combinations with an Additional Preposition:

bring down on, bring up to  
check out of  
get back from, get out of, give back to  
hand in to, hand out to, hand over to, hang up on  
mix up with  
run out of  
take away from, take out of, tear out of  
wash out of, write down on

**Exercise 5G—**

**Change Each Statement into a Yes/No Question. Change the Underlined Nouns to Pronouns.**

1. He brought the books up to the fourth floor.  
Did he bring them up to the fourth floor?
2. She is going to check some books out of the library.  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. He is trying to get the spot out of his shirt.  
\_\_\_\_\_





## INTRANSITIVE COMBINATIONS

Example: act up—"misbehave"

There is no object; the word following the verb is now an adverb.

### *Statement Pattern:*

**subject + verb + adverb**

The child acted up

### *Question Pattern:*

**(question word) + auxiliary verb + subject + verb + adverb?**

Why did the child act up?

### *Noun Clause Pattern:*

**introduction + question word + subject + verb + adverb**

I don't know why the child acted up.

### *Adjective Clause Pattern:*

**subject + who/that + verb + adverb + verb**

The child who acted up is in the kitchen.

Examples of Intransitive Verb + Adverb Combinations:

act up, add up

back down, back off, back up, blow away, blow out, blow over, blow up

break down, break in, break out, break up, burn down, burn up, butt in

calm down, carry on, catch on, catch up, check in, check out, cheer up, chicken out

chip in, clam up, close down, close in, close out, close up

come about, come out, come through, come to, crack down, crop up, cut back

drag on, drop by, drop in, drop off, drop out

eat out

fall down, fall off, fall out, fall over, fall through, fill out, find out

get about, get along, get around, get away, get by, get off, get on, get out, get  
through, get up  
give in, give up  
go about, go by, go on, go out, go through  
goof off, grow up  
hang around, hang out, hang up, hear of  
keep in, keep out, keep up, kick in  
live on, look in, look out, luck out  
make out, make up  
nod off  
pan out, pass away, pass out, pick up, pull over  
run around

show up, slip up, stand by, stand out, stand up, start over  
take off, take over, throw up, try out, turn in, turn out, turn up  
wake up, watch out, work out

**Exercise 5H—**

***Rewrite Each Sentence, Using an Intransitive Verb-Adverb Combination in Place of the Underlined Verb.***

1. The children misbehaved.

The children acted up.

2. I hope the boss doesn't lose his temper because we are late.

---

3. The thieves entered the building by force.

---

4. Please try to be still and quiet.

---

5. Do you think they will understand the rules quickly?

---

6. What time did you fall asleep?

---

7. It is important to become mature.

---

8. Those kids act silly and do nothing all day.

---

9. Do not trespass!

---

10. We passed the exam; we were very fortunate.

---



Noun Clause: *It doesn't matter who(m) she gets along with.*  
Adjective Clause: *Those are the roommates [who(m)] she gets along with.*

Example 2: to get through with—to finish something that requires effort

Statement: *They have to get through with their exams.*  
*They have to get through with them.*  
Question: *What do they have to get through with?*  
Noun Clause: *I don't care what they have to get through with.*  
Adjective Clause: *These are the exams (that) they have to get through with.*

Examples of Verb-Adverb-Preposition Combinations:

add up to  
back down from, bone up on, break up with, brush up on  
carry on with, catch on to, catch up with, chicken out on, close in on, come down on, come  
down with, crack down on, cut back on  
drop in on, drop out of  
face up to, fall in with, fall out of, feel up to, fill in for, find out about  
get ahead of, get along with, get around to, get away from, get away with, get out of, get  
through with, give up on  
go around with, go in for, go out for, go out with, go through with  
hang around with, hang out with, hang up on  
keep away from, keep up with  
look back on, look down on, look in on, look out for, look up to  
make up with  
put up with  
run around with, run out of  
stand in for, stand up for, stand out from, start over from  
take off from, take over from, try out for  
watch out for, wear out from

**Exercise 5I—**

**Rewrite Each Sentence, Using a Verb-Adverb-Preposition Expression in Place of the Underlined Words.**

1. My sister is going to stop dating her boyfriend tonight.

My sister is going to break up with her boyfriend tonight.

2. I don't understand how she tolerates her new roommate.

---

3. He is looking for another teacher to substitute for him tomorrow.

---

**pullover**—a sweater that you put on by pulling it over your head

*Pullovers are comfortable and attractive.*

**pushover**—a gullible person

*Her husband is a pushover; he will buy anything from a slick salesman.*

**rip-off**—a high price for something of lesser value

*He paid too much for that antique chair; it was a rip-off.*

**show-off**—a person who constantly demonstrates his talents

*I don't like to dance with him because he is a big show-off.*

**stand-in**—a substitute

*The stand-in for the main actor did a great job.*

**step up**—an improvement in status

*The new house is a step up for him.*

**takeoff**—departure of an airplane

*The takeoff was smooth, but the landing was difficult.*

**takeover**—the assumption of control, management, or responsibility of another group

*There have been a lot of takeovers of big companies this year.*

**tryouts**—auditions

*If you want to be on the team, come to the tryouts tomorrow afternoon.*

**turnaround**—a change in attitude

*When he met her he went from depressed to cheerful; it was a complete turnaround.*

**turnout**—the number of people attending an event

*The turnout for the office picnic was great; almost everybody came.*

**workout**—a session of exercise

*A daily workout can improve your disposition.*

**write-up**—an article in a newspaper or a magazine

*There was a big write-up about our friend in last week's paper.*

### *Exercise 5J*

*Write the Appropriate Nouns in the Blanks.*

1. Our tire burst on the highway. We had a \_\_\_\_\_.

2. My friend is going to a psychologist to try to get rid of her \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The beach is private and quiet; it is a perfect \_\_\_\_\_ for a busy couple.
4. The woman carefully applied lipstick, powder, and mascara; she was an expert at putting on \_\_\_\_\_.
5. She paid two thousand dollars for that old, broken-down car. What a \_\_\_\_\_!



**Exercise 5K****Fill in Each Blank with a Verb-Preposition Combination Used as an Adjective:**

1. You can pay for your groceries at the \_\_\_\_\_ counter.
2. I'm cooking dinner at home tonight; I'm really tired of \_\_\_\_\_ food.
3. Whenever I check into a hotel, I ask for a \_\_\_\_\_ call for the next morning.
4. The politicians promised to help clean up the \_\_\_\_\_ neighborhoods around the city.
5. It is very convenient to deposit your checks at a \_\_\_\_\_ bank.



## Prepositions as Prefixes in Nouns, Adjectives, and Verbs

In the following examples, a preposition has been added to the beginning of the original word, making it more specific.

### NOUNS

**by-line**—a line at the beginning of an article with the author's name

*His article was published, and he was pleased to see his name on the by-line.*

**bypass**—a route that goes around a city, rather than through it

*Taking the bypass saves a lot of time.*

—a surgical operation that avoids the main organ

*Her father had a heart bypass last month.*

**back-up**—someone who can substitute if necessary

*I think I am well enough to do the job; if not, my colleague is here as a back-up.*

**downgrade**—a change to a lower quality

*His new position is a downgrade in salary, but he is happier.*

**downpour**—a heavy rain

*The streets are flooded after that downpour yesterday.*

**downtown**—the heart of a city

*Let's go downtown tonight and have fun.*

**downswing**—a reduction in business activity

*There was a downswing in the first quarter of the year.*

**input**—the contribution of ideas

*We really need your input for this proposal.*

**off-chance**—an unlikely possibility

*He called me on the off-chance that I would be available.*

**off-shoot**—a branch

*That group is an off-shoot of a national organization.*

**outbreak**—an eruption

*There has been an outbreak of the flu in this city.*

**outlaw**—a criminal

*The cowboy films always have heroes and outlaws.*

**outpost**—a place of business far away from city life

*His store is a little outpost in the middle of nowhere.*

**outpouring**—an abundance

*There was an outpouring of sympathy for the widow.*

**output**—production

*Our output for the month was huge; we made a lot of money.*

**overkill**—failure caused by too much effort

*The salesman talked so much that the client lost interest; it was complete overkill.*

**overpass**—a bridge that extends over a road

*An overpass is being built at that intersection; it will ease the traffic situation.*

**throughway**—highway

*You should go on the throughway; it's much faster.*

**underdog**—the team or person not expected to succeed

*It's exciting when the underdog wins in a tournament.*

**underpass**—a road built underneath another road

*To get on the main highway, you need to get on the underpass first.*

**underpinnings**—foundation

*If the underpinnings are strong, the building will be safe.*

**update**—the latest information

*The television stations are giving us an update on the tragedy every five minutes.*

**upheaval**—a disruption

*There is a big upheaval going on in our office; a lot of people are being transferred.*

**upstart**—ambitious newcomer

*The new assistant tried to change our office procedures during her first week. What an upstart!*

**upsurge**—increase in activity

*There was an upsurge during the second quarter, thank goodness!*

**upswing**—increase in activity

*There has been a steady upswing this year.*

Certain expressions use prepositions in noun form.

**the ins and outs**—all of the details

*After owning a restaurant for twenty years, he knows all the ins and outs of the business.*

**the ups and downs**—the good things and the bad things

*We learn to cope with the ups and downs of life.*

**Exercise 6A**—

**Fill in Each Blank with a Preposition-Noun Combination:**

1. That business lost money during the \_\_\_\_\_ in August.
2. The arrival of tourists in the spring means a big \_\_\_\_\_ in business activity.

3. At the meeting they asked for \_\_\_\_\_ from everybody in the department.
4. Our boss gives us an \_\_\_\_\_ on the company's activities at the end of every month.
5. You'd better get a flu shot in case there is an \_\_\_\_\_ of the flu next winter.

**upbeat**—in a good mood

*Everybody is upbeat because of the holidays.*

**upmarket**—stylish and expensive

*The new mall has only upmarket shops; there are no discount stores there.*

In the following expressions, prepositions are used in the form of adjectives:

**the down side**—the negative aspect

*The down side of my new job is that I have to work on Saturdays.*

**the inside story**—information known only by the people concerned

*The tabloid newspapers always claim to have the inside story, but it is usually only speculation.*

**the in crowd/thing/place**—what is currently popular

*In high school, she was always part of the in crowd.*

*Body piercing was the in thing in the early nineties.*

*That nightclub is the in place for the over-thirty crowd.*

**the up side**—the positive aspect

*The up side of the new job is that there will be a lot of international travel.*

**Exercise 6B**—

**Fill in Each Blank with a Preposition-Adjective Combination with the Indicated Meaning:**

1. We were \_\_\_\_\_ (thrilled) at the news.
2. She got the information through her \_\_\_\_\_ (Internet) contacts.
3. Many people are \_\_\_\_\_ (given too much work) and \_\_\_\_\_ (given very low wages).
4. Her new boyfriend is friendly and \_\_\_\_\_ (extroverted).
5. During the interview they explained the \_\_\_\_\_ (positive) side and the \_\_\_\_\_ (negative) side of working there.

## VERBS

In the following examples, a preposition has been added to the beginning of a verb, giving it more specific meaning.

**bypass**—to go around a city to avoid the downtown traffic

*If you are in a hurry, you can bypass Philadelphia by taking the alternate route.*

**downgrade**—to lower in quality or status

*They downgraded her job, so she is looking for another one.*

**download**—to add software to a computer

*She downloaded a new program this morning.*



**Exercise 6C—****Fill in Each Blank with an Appropriate Preposition-Verb Combination:**

1. In an effort to save money, they are going to \_\_\_\_\_ (decrease the status of) a lot of jobs.
2. I hope they can \_\_\_\_\_ (conquer) all of their difficulties.
3. That team didn't have enough players and they had to \_\_\_\_\_ (cancel participation) from the tournament.
4. He bought her a huge diamond ring, hoping to \_\_\_\_\_ (surprise and impress) her.
5. Do you think they will ever \_\_\_\_\_ (prohibit) guns in this country?



## **PART FOUR— ANSWERS AND GLOSSARY**



## Answers to Exercises

### Part Two

*1.*

1. in, in, on, at, in

2. since

3. for

4. at, on, by

5. on, of, for/in

6. on, at around/at, until

7. at, in

8. after

9. through/during

10. during

11. At

12. up

*2A.*

1. on

2. in

3. near

4. far from

5. over

6. in back of/behind

7. at the top of

8. at the bottom of

9. next to

10. against

11. between

12. among

**2B.**

in, in, at, on, at, on, in, at, at, at, in, in, at, on, at, in, on, in

3.

1. across

2. up

3. over

4. away from

5. out of

6. down

7. back to

8. into

9. toward

10. through

11. along

12. past

13. around

14. onto

15. off

4.

1. about

2. over

3. under

4. between

5. plus

6. from

7. into

8. of

5.

1. in

2. in

3. during

4. on

5. in

6. on

7. During

8. On

9. In

10. on

6.

1. in

2. on

3. on

4. in

5. in

6. in

7. on

8. in

9. on

10. on

7.

1. of

2. on



3. in

4. on

5. of

6. in

7. of

8. on

9. in

10. on

8.

1. like

2. above

3. about

4. of

5. about

6. about

7. with

8. of

9. like

10. with

9.

1. in

2. on

3. with, on

4. have, on

5. in

6. on

7. in

8. with, on

9. on

10. in

*10.*

1. about

2. about/over

3. about

4. in

5. about

6. on

7. in

8. at

9. in

10. on

11. over

12. in

13. at

14. of/about

15. over

16. in

17. at

18. of

19. on

20. about

*11.*

1. to

2. for

3. on

4. for

5. to

6. to/for

7. for

8. to

9. to

10. for

11. for

12. to/for

*12.*

1. out of

2. under

3. in

4. at

5. on

6. in

7. in

8. on

9. on

10. in

11. in

12. on

13. out of

14. in

15. under

*13.*

1. of

2. out of/from

3. with

4. from

5. of

**6. off**

**7. out of**

**8. from**

**9. off**

**10. of**

**14.**

1. of
2. for
3. to
4. for
5. at/with
6. about
7. at
8. in
9. of
10. of
11. with
12. about
13. about
14. for
15. about

**15A.**

1. with
2. about
3. to
4. on
5. to
6. to/with
7. with
8. with

9. to

10. about

**15B.**

1. to

2. with

3. toward

4. on

5. to

6. to

7. on

8. at

9. about

10. with

**15C.**

1. in

2. with

3. in

4. in

5. in

6. in

7. with

8. in

9. with

10. with

**Part Three**

**1A.**

1. with a pen
2. for a girl/for this girl/for that girl/for another girl
3. to Mary's cousin
4. without a book



5. from a nice boy
6. between Mary and another girl
7. in Mary's house
8. for another apple
9. next to a/the tall boy
10. near Mr. Johnson's house

***1B.***

1. for three apples
2. without friends
3. in the United States
4. from many countries
5. to lots of places/to a lot of places
6. except these exercises
7. with other friends
8. at plenty of stores
9. by other teachers
10. from the Smiths

***1C.***

1. for this furniture
2. for fresh air
3. with new jewelry
4. without much hot water
5. with a little machinery
6. of sugar
7. by mail

8. with too much junk

9. for meat

10. for equipment

***1D.***

1. them

2. it

3. them

4. her

5. us

6. them

7. him

8. it

9. it

10. him and her/them

11. you

12. her and me/us

13. us

14. them

15. them

***1E.***

1. studying, working

2. exercising

3. taking

4. driving

5. buying

6. moving

7. cooking, cleaning

8. playing

9. winning

10. taking

11. working

12. work

13. working

14. work

15. working

16. work

17. work

18. work

19. working

20. work

21. working

22. work

23. working

**2A.**

1. Is the letter from your mother?

2. Are you in Chicago?

3. Where are you from?/What state are you from?

4. What city are they from?

5. Who is the picture of?

6. What is the article about?

7. What time is the class?

8. Where is the concert?

**2B.**

1. What/Which department does she work in?

2. Where does he call from?

3. Does he send e-mail to you?

4. Who(m) does he send e-mail to?

5. Does he drive through Washington?
6. What city does he drive through?
7. What do they talk about?
8. Who(m) do they discuss it with?
9. Where does he go every summer?
10. Who(m) does she make cookies for?
11. Where does he work?
12. What time does he work?

3.

1. where she is from.
2. who(m) he is talking to.
3. what she writes with.
4. who(m) they live with.
5. who(m) this letter is for.
6. what he does that for.
7. what company she works for.
8. which bus she is coming on.
9. who(m) she writes letters to.
10. which courses I am registered for.

4.

1. The man [who(m)] she writes letters to is my father.
2. The house (that) my friends are looking at is beautiful.
3. Those are the children [who(m)] my daughter plays with.
4. The teacher [who(m)] we talked to yesterday isn't here.
5. The piano (that) he paid a lot of money for is fabulous.



6. I am looking for the boy [who(m)] I gave five dollars to.
7. She likes the neighbor [who(m)] she goes to the movies with.
8. I lost the bag (that) I put my money in.
9. I found the jacket (that) I took my keys out of.
10. He can't remember the street (that) he parked on.

**5A.**

1. We asked for it.
2. She is going to call on them next week.
3. They just got on it.
4. I came across them.
5. The policeman is coming after you.
6. She ran into them at the mall.
7. I am going to stand by him/her.
8. He just went through them.
9. We are looking for it.
10. That boy takes after him.

**5B.**

1. did you ask for?
2. is she going to call on?
3. did they just get on?
4. did you come across?
5. is the policeman coming after?
6. did she run into at the mall?
7. are you going to stand by?
8. did he just go through?

9. wallet are you looking for?

10. does that boy take after?

**5C.**

1. are looking for.

2. was going through.

3. had checked into.

4. cares about.

5. is running for.

**5D.**

1. he was looking for.

2. somebody broke into.

3. she hopes to hear from?

4. the teacher picks on.

5. I have never heard of.

**5E.**

1. The wind blew them down.

2. The teacher came in and broke it up.

3. Don't bring it up.

4. Are you going to call it off?

5. We will clean it up.

6. I have to fill them out.

7. She is trying to get it off her shoes.

8. Did you give it back?

9. We looked her up in Pittsburgh.

10. He always mixes them up.

**5F.**



1. They looked the new house over./They looked over the new house.

2. We are going to pass our papers in./We are going to pass in our papers.
3. He has to pay the money back./He has to pay back the money.
4. Did they kick Jennifer out?/Did they kick out Jennifer?
5. I hope she doesn't pass this opportunity up./I hope she doesn't pass up this opportunity.

**5G.**

1. Did he bring them up to the fourth floor?
2. Is she going to check them out of the library?
3. Is he trying to get it out of his shirt?
4. Did we get them back from the dry cleaners?
5. Is he going to hand it in to the manager tomorrow?
6. Should you hang it up?
7. Does she mix it up with her fingers?
8. Are the police going to run them out of town?
9. Does she take them out of the car herself?
10. Did I write it down on a scrap of paper?

**5H.**

1. The children acted up.
2. I hope the boss doesn't blow up because we are late.
3. The thieves broke in.
4. Please try to calm down.
5. Do you think they will catch on?
6. What time did you drop off?
7. It is important to grow up.
8. Those kids hang around all day.

**9.** Keep out!

**10.** We passed the exam; we lucked out.

**5I.**

**1.** My sister is going to break up with her boyfriend tonight.

**2.** I don't understand how she puts up with her new roommate.

**3.** He is looking for another teacher to fill in for him tomorrow.

**4.** The doctor told her to cut back on coffee.

**5.** If you have a cold, you should keep away from/stay away from other people as much as possible.

**6.** It is hard for the smaller children to keep up with the big ones.

**7.** We have to go to the store; we have run out of milk for the baby.

**8.** The children are worn out from playing all day.

**9.** They will have to face up to the facts.

**10.** We all look up to our boss.

**5J.**

1. blowout
2. hang-ups
3. getaway
4. makeup
5. rip-off
6. show-off
7. tryouts
8. hangout
9. workout
10. write-up

**5K.**

1. check-out
2. carry-out/take-out
3. wake-up
4. run-down
5. drive-through

**6A.**

1. downswing
2. upsurge
3. input
4. update
5. outbreak

**6B.**

1. overjoyed

2. on-line

3. overworked, underpaid

4. outgoing

5. up, down

**6C.**

1. downgrade

2. overcome

3. withdraw

4. overwhelm

5. outlaw

## Glossary

an	absence	of	40.10
be	abhorrent	to	52.5
in one's	absence		31.15
to	abuse someone	(all) through	50.7
from one's	accent		30.11
be	acceptable	to	52.5
in	acceptance		31.30
be	accessible	for	29.6
in	accord	with	59.11
on	account	of	40.14
on	account	of	42.19
in	accounting		31.17
be	accustomed	to	52.6
an	ache	in one's	31.23
be	aching	with	59.18
to	act	against	5.3
to	act	as	10.1
to	act	for someone	29.9
to	act	like	37.2
to	act	up	58.10
against an	action		5.3
in	action		31.30
go into	action		36.4
in one's	actions		31.3
to	adapt	to	52.6
to	add	on	42.32
to	add	to	52.8

to	add	up (to)	58.10
to	add something	on (to)	42.32
in	addition	to	31.35
in	addition		31.32
to	adhere	to	52.8
be	adjacent	to	52.19
in	administration		31.17
under an	administration		55.4
to	admit	to	52.6
something/nothing	adorable	about	1.5
be beneath	adultery		16.3
in	adulthood		31.3
to	advance	in	31.34
in	advance		31.3
at an	advantage		11.11
	advice	for	29.1
on the	advice	of	42.19
to	advise	about	1.1
to	advise someone	of	40.8
be	affectionate	to	52.7
be	affectionate	toward	53.2
in the	affirmative		31.25
to	affix	to	52.8
in the	afternoon		31.3
(all) through the	afternoon		50.7
on nice	afternoons		42.14
at one's	age		11.9
under	age		55.3
with	age		59.13
one's	age is	against	5.5
through an	agency		50.8

be	aghast	at	11.7
to	agree	about	1.1
to	agree	on	42.33
to	agree	to	52.6
to	agree	with	59.11
in	agreement	with	31.22
an	agreement	with	59.11
in	agreement	with	59.11
toward an	agreement		53.3
be	ahead	of	6.3
in	aid	of	31.20
to one's	aid		52.4
to	aim	at	11.3
have an	air	about	1.8
in the	air		31.35
on the	air		42.28
with an	air		59.5
in the	air force		31.17
by	air mail		22.3
an	airplane	to	52.2
on an	airplane		42.9
in an	airplane (small)		31.1
off	alcohol		41.4
in an	alcove		31.1
in	alignment	with	31.22
in	alignment		31.18
	all	along	7.3
	all	of	40.5
after	all		4.8
in	all		31.32
be	allergic	to	52.6
an	allergy	to	52.6



	of	aluminum		40.7
	be	amazed	at	11.7
	in	analysis		31.32
	of	anger		40.6
NOTE: Numbers refer to preposition number and section in Part One.				