



# Preposition Chart

Preposition	How It's Used	Example
<b>Showing Time</b>		
At	exact times meal times parts of the day age	<b>at</b> 3pm <b>at</b> dinner <b>at</b> sundown <b>at</b> age 21
By	a limit in time in the sense of <i>at the latest</i>	<b>by</b> sundown <b>by</b> the due date
In	seasons months years durations after a certain period of time	<b>in</b> the summer <b>in</b> November <b>in</b> 1992 <b>in</b> the same year <b>in</b> an hour
On	days of the week parts of the day where the day is named dates	<b>on</b> Wednesday <b>on</b> Friday night <b>on</b> December 4th
Ago	a certain time in the past	2 years <b>ago</b>
After	a point in time that follows another point in time	<b>after</b> the game; <b>after</b> the surgery
Before	a point in time that precedes another point in time	<b>before</b> leaving; <b>before</b> breakfast; <b>before</b> 2004
During	something that happened/will happen in a specific period of time	<b>during</b> the night; <b>during</b> war
For	over a certain period in the	<b>for</b> 2 years



# Preposition Chart

	past	
Past	telling the time	ten <b>past</b> six (6:10)
Since	from a certain period of time	<b>since</b> 1980; <b>since</b> the accident
Throughout	something that happened/will happen continuously in a specific period of time	<b>throughout</b> the year; <b>throughout</b> the ordeal
To	telling time  from an earlier time to a later time	ten <b>to</b> six (5:50)  1pm <b>to</b> 3pm
Until	up to a certain point in time  how long something is going to last	<b>until</b> the end; <b>until</b> sunrise
Up (to)	from an earlier point to a later point	<b>up (to)</b> now
<b>Showing Place</b>		
At	an object's settled position or position after it has moved  meeting place or location  point of direction  a target	<b>at</b> the airport; <b>at</b> the ceremony  <b>at</b> home; <b>at</b> the desk  turning <b>at</b> the intersection  throwing the snowball <b>at</b> Lucy
By	close to  alongside of	<b>by</b> the school  <b>by</b> the window
In	in an enclosed space  in a geographic location  in a print medium	<b>in</b> the garage; <b>in</b> an envelope  <b>in</b> San Diego; <b>in</b> Texas  <b>in</b> a book; <b>in</b> a magazine



# Preposition Chart

On	<p>for a certain side</p> <p>for a river/lake</p> <p>for a floor in a house</p> <p>for public transport</p> <p>for television, radio</p>	<p><b>on</b> the left</p> <p>London lies <b>on</b> the Thames</p> <p><b>on</b> the floor</p> <p><b>on</b> a bus</p> <p><b>on</b> the air; <b>on</b> TV</p>
About	<p>around or outside of</p> <p>at but not exactly on</p> <p>related to</p>	<p><b>about</b> town</p> <p><b>about</b> five feet tall</p> <p><b>about</b> my father's business</p>
Above	<p>suspended higher than something else</p> <p>superior to</p>	<p><b>above</b> the door</p> <p><b>above</b> me in rank</p>
After	<p>pursuit</p> <p>a point further from an earlier point</p>	<p>chasing <b>after</b> the robbers</p> <p>the corner <b>after</b> the big house</p>
Against	<p>leaning on</p> <p>opposite to or facing</p>	<p><b>against</b> the door</p> <p><b>against</b> the wall</p>
Along	<p>tracing the length of, without emphasis on the ends</p>	<p><b>along</b> the hallway; <b>along</b> the river</p>
Among	<p>in the company of (three or more)</p> <p>in a crowd</p> <p>the end of a long list</p>	<p><b>among</b> friends</p> <p><b>among</b> the masses</p> <p><b>among</b> other things</p>
Around	<p>location of something</p> <p>explaining a period of time</p>	<p>drive <b>around</b> the block</p> <p><b>around</b> 3 o'clock</p>
Before	<p>in the front in terms of space</p>	<p><b>before</b> the emperor; <b>before</b> God</p>



# Preposition Chart

Behind	on the back side of a point in space	<b>behind</b> the car; <b>behind</b> her smile
Below	something lower than or underneath something else	<b>below</b> the stairs; <b>below</b> expectations
From	in the sense of <i>where from</i>	a <b>flower</b> from the garden
Into	enter a room/building	go <b>into</b> the kitchen/house
Onto	movement to the top of something	jump <b>onto</b> the table
Over	covered by something else “more than” “getting to the other side” overcoming an obstacle	put a jacket <b>over</b> your shirt <b>over</b> 16 years of age walk <b>over</b> the bridge climb <b>over</b> the wall
Through	something with limits on top, bottom and the sides	drive <b>through</b> the tunnel
Towards	movement in the direction of something (but not directly to it)	go 5 steps <b>towards</b> the house
<b>Other Important Prepositions</b>		
About	for topics, meaning <i>what about</i>	we were talking <b>about</b> you
At	For <i>age</i>	she learned Russian <b>at</b> 45
By	who made it rise or fall of something travelling (other than walking or horseriding)	a book <b>by</b> Mark Twain prices have risen <b>by</b> 10 percent <b>by</b> car, <b>by</b> bus
From	who gave it	a present <b>from</b> Jane
In	entering a car/taxi	get <b>in</b> the car
Of	who/what did it belong to	a page <b>of</b> the book



# Preposition Chart

	what does it show	the picture <b>of</b> a place
Off	leaving a public transport vehicle	get <b>off</b> the train
On	walking or riding on horseback entering a public transport vehicle	<b>on</b> foot, <b>on</b> horseback get <b>on</b> the bus
Out of	leaving a car/taxi	get <b>out</b> of the taxi

For more information on using prepositions, see the following resources:

Beason, Larry and Mark Lester. *A Commonsense Guide to Grammar and Usage*, 6th ed.

Azar, Betty S. and Stacy A. Hagen. *Understanding and Using English Grammar*, 4th ed.

Johnston, Ted and Joe Old. *English Beyond the Basics*, 2nd ed.