

Preposition

Definition: A preposition is a word placed before a noun or a pronoun to show in what relation the person or thing denoted by it stands in regard to something else.

Prepositions can be of the following types:

1. Prepositions of time

These prepositions are used:

(a) to denote the time of the day

Examples:

- I went to the market on Monday.
- The movie starts at three o'clock.

(b) to denote parts of the day, months, years, seasons

Examples:

- The sun rises in the morning.
- The Board exams are held in March.
- My sister was born in 1999.
- Shimla is a place one should visit in summer.

(c) to denote extended time

Examples:

- She has not eaten since yesterday.
- I will be on vacation for two weeks.
- The first term will be from June to September.
- Some children play during lunchtime.
- She will complete this project within a year.

2. Prepositions Of Place

These types of prepositions are used:

(a) to denote a particular point

Examples:

- There are many rooms in the school.
- The jewels are kept inside the case.
- The basket is kept on the chair.
- There is a sale at the shop.

(b) to denote a place higher than a point

Examples:

- The kite flew over my roof.
- He lives in the flat just above mine.

(c) to denote a place lower than a point .

Examples:

- They have constructed the parking under the ground.
- The children snuggled underneath the blanket.
- They hid the treasure beneath the rocks.
- There is an entirely new world below the sea-level.

(d) to denote a neighbouring point

Examples:

- She has a shop near the park.
- There is a cyber cafe by the store.
- The vendor sells vegetables next to my house.
- Her house is situated between Saket and Malviya Nagar.
- She is the happiest in the library among books.
- The school is situated opposite a cinema hall.

3. Prepositions introducing objects

These types of prepositions are used:

(a) as objects of verbs

Examples:

- It is difficult not to laugh at his joke.
- The teacher asked the students to look at the blackboard.
- It is very natural to smile at a baby.

(b) with 'of

Examples:

- I did not approve o/his behaviour.
- This book consists of many pages.
- He dreams o/becoming a film star.

4. Prepositions of location These prepositions are used:

(a) To denote a point

Examples:

- Is your father at home?
- There was no guard at the railway crossing.
- There was a huge crowd at the bank.

(b) to denote surface

Examples:

- The man was working on his presentation.
- A ship floats on water.

(c) to denote an area/volume in an enclosed area

Examples:

- The cattle are in the pasture.
- There are five windows in the room.
- There is a lot of waterlogging in the streets.

(d) to denote an area/volume not enclosed by a fence

Example:

- The horses were grazing in the open field.

5. Prepositions Of Direction

These prepositions indicate the direction.

Example:

- The swimmers swam against the flow.

6. Prepositions Of Destination

These prepositions are used to indicate:

(a) movement towards a goal

Examples:

- He walked all the way to his apartment.
- It is a very short distance to the bus stop.

(b) movement towards a surface

Examples:

- The ball fell onto the net.
- The short stories were recorded onto cassettes.
- The window opened directly onto the pavement.

(c) movement towards the interior of a volume

Example:

- The cat fell into the well.

(d) movement in a general direction

Example:

- She always sits meditating with her face towards the east.

7. Prepositions denoting means of transportation These prepositions are used:

(a) to indicate climbing

Example:

- She finds it difficult to climb into a moving bus.

(b) with 'go'

Examples:

- She has decided to go to London by ship.
- She goes to school on foot.

One word – many prepositions

A Ready Reckoner

Agree	with a person	to a thing; upon a policy
Angry	with a person	at a thing for some reason
Appeal	to a person	for a thing
Apply	to a person	for a post
Attend	on a person	for a thing
Blind	of one eye	to one's faults, etc.
Call	at a place	on a person
Care	for a person	of a thing
Compare	with (similar) thing	to a (dissimilar) thing
Compete	with a person	for a thing
Complain	to/against a person	of something
Deal	with a person	in a thing

Die	of a disease, for a cause	due to overwork, from hunger
Differ	from a thing	for a purpose
Disgusted	with a person	at a thing
Distinguish	in one thing from another	between two things
Enquire	into a matter	after one's health
Enter	a place	into an agreement
Entrust	a person with a thing	a thing to a person
Fire	at a man	upon a mob
Grateful	to a person	for a thing
Lean	against a wall	on a stick
Meet	a person	with an accident
Part	from a person	with a thing
Quarrel	with a person	over a thing
Retire	from business	to bed
Slow	of speech	at a business
Stare	at a person	a person in the face
Suffer	from fever	for follies
Useful	to a person	for a purpose

Preposition Exercises Solved Examples

The following passage has not been edited. There is one error related to the use of prepositions in each numbered line. Write the correct word and correction against the incorrect word. Do not copy the whole passage.

Question 1.

	Incorrect	Correct
Kalpana Chawla was at the top	(a) .....	.....
in the newspapers ever. She lost her	(b) .....	.....
life in a very short span of time.	(c) .....	.....

She hailed by a small town	(d)	.....	.....
of Karnal. But unfortunately, she	(e)	.....	.....
died by with six other astronauts.	(f)	.....	.....

Answer:

Incorrect – Correct

- (a) at – on
- (b) in – of
- (c) in – within
- (d) by – from
- (e) of – in
- (f) by – along

Question 2.

	Incorrect	Correct
Tsunami is a series in waves	(a) .....	.....
generated in a body from water	(b) .....	.....
through an impulsive disturbance	(c)

causing property damage and loss in life.	(d)
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They are referred to by tidal waves.	(e)
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Waves act below the influence of gravity.	(f)
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Answer:

Incorrect – Correct

(a) in – of

(b) from – of

(c) through – by

(d) in – of

(e) by – as

(f) below – under

Question 3.

	Incorrect	Correct
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The Metro Rail System is unique through	(a)
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the whole world. People in Delhi and	(b)
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in neighboring states will enjoy this unique railway facility.	(c)
The Metro station of Connaught Place	(d)
is equivalent in the Victoria terminal	(e)	.....	.....
of the well placed central London.	(f)	.....	.....

Answer:

Incorrect – Correct

(a) through – in

(b) in – of

(c) in – of

(d) of – at

(e) in – to

(f) of – in

Question 4.

		Incorrect	Correct
The problem in unemployment	(a)	.....	.....
of India is very serious.	(b)	.....	.....

For provide jobs to rapidly increasing
population is very difficult. (c)

All the countries in the world are (d)

facing the same. From two crores are
partly employed. They can be provided (e)

opportunities before engage
themselves in spinning and handloom (f)
industries.

Answer:
Incorrect – Correct
(a) in – of
(b) of – in
(c) For – To
(d) in – of
(e) From – About
(f) before – to

Question 5.

Incorrect	Correct
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Environmental pollution has posed a serious threat not only in man	(a)
but also among all living beings.	(b)
Poverty and population are the worst polluters in the environment.	(c)	.....	.....
During older times needs were limited.	(d)	.....	.....
The increase of the population and	(e)	.....	.....
fast development in cities are the main culprit.	(f)	.....	.....

Answer:

Incorrect – Correct

- (a) in – to
- (b) among – to
- (c) in – of
- (d) During – in
- (e) of – in
- (f) in – of

Fill in the blanks with correct prepositions.

6. Mohan distributed the sweets (a) Ram and Shyam. Shyam is fond (b) sweets but Ram is not. Ram eats chocolates which are made (c) milk. He says that chocolate is superior (d) sweets. He is

addicted (e) chocolate milk. Most of the boys prefer chocolate (f)
..... sweets.

Answer:

- (a) between
- (b) of
- (c) of
- (d) to
- (e) to
- (f) to