

Prepositions

Prepositions are the words that indicate location and time, and they almost always come in phrases. Check out the examples below.



The puppy runs to the food bowl.



The black puppy is to the right of the others.

PREPOSITIONAL PHRASE FORMULA

A prepositional phrase consists of a preposition plus a noun, and sometimes modifiers of the noun come in between, such as adjectives and articles.

Preposition + Optional Modifiers + Noun

In the spring, I always vow to plant tomatoes but end up buying them at the store.

Prep. Noun

Prep. Noun

COMMON PREPOSITIONS

About	Below	In addition	On top of	Until
Above	Beneath	to	Onto	Up
According to	Beside	In back of	Out	Up to
Across	Between	In case of	Out of	Upon
After	Beyond	In front of	Outside	With
Against	By	In place of	Over	Within
Along	By means of	In spite of	Past	Without
Along with	Concerning	Including	Regarding	
Among	Despite	Inside	Round	
Apart from	Down	Instead of	Since	
Around	During	Into	Through	
As	Except	Like	Throughout	
As for	Except for	Near	To	
At	Excepting	Next	Toward	
Because of	For	Of	Under	
Before	From	Off	Underneath	
Behind	In	On	Unlike	



PREPOSITIONS OF TIME

At designates specific times.

The train is due at 12:15 p.m.

On designates days and dates.

My brother is coming on Monday.

We're having a party on the Fourth of July.

In designates nonspecific times during a day, a month, a season, or a year.

She likes to jog in the morning.

It's too cold in winter to run outside.

For designates measuring time (seconds, minutes, hours, days, months, years).

He held his breath for seven minutes.

The British and Irish have been quarreling for seven centuries.

Since is used with a specific date or time.

He's worked here since 1970.

She's been sitting in the waiting room since two-thirty.

PREPOSITIONS OF PLACE

At is used for specific addresses.

Grammar English lives at 55 Boretz Road in Durham.

On is used to designate names of streets, avenues, etc.

Her house is on Boretz Road.

In is used for the names of land-areas (towns, counties, states, countries, and continents).

She lives in Durham. Durham is in Windham County.

Note: With *downstairs*, *downtown*, *inside*, *outside*, *upstairs*, and *uptown* we use no preposition.

PREPOSITIONS OF MOVEMENT

To is used in order to express movement toward a place.

They were driving to work together.

She's going to the dentist's office this morning.

Toward and **towards** are also helpful prepositions to express movement. These are simply variant spellings of the same word; use whichever sounds better to you.

We're moving toward the light.

This is a big step towards the project's completion.

Note: With *home*, *downtown*, *uptown*, *inside*, *outside*, *downstairs*, and *upstairs*, we use no preposition.