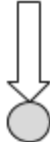




Prepositions

Generally, a preposition provides information about the relationship of a noun or pronoun to another part of the sentence; however, there are many idiomatic uses (see phrasal verbs) and constructions that need to be memorized. Despite this, it's useful to learn the general rules. There are many more prepositions, but these are some of the most common.



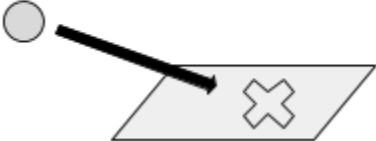
Prepositions of Location: At, In, On

At	<p>Located at a specific place:</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We'll meet you <i>at</i> the library • We had lunch <i>at</i> a restaurant. • There are a lot of students <i>at</i> the university.
In	<p>Located within boundaries (enclosed):</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What's <i>in</i> the box? • We live <i>in</i> Isla Vista. <p><i>Metaphorical boundaries</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are five people <i>in</i> our household.
On	<p>Located on a surface: (not enclosed):</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dinner is <i>on</i> the table. • They had nothing but the clothes <i>on</i> their backs. <p><i>Note: We travel "in" cars but "on" planes and trains.</i></p>

Prepositions of Time: In, On, At, By

<p>Year/Month/Week : In</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We met <i>in</i> 2005. • My birthday is <i>in</i> May. • We have midterms <i>in</i> the fifth week of the quarter.
<p>Day/Weekend: On</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I'm going home <i>on</i> Saturday. • I relax <i>on</i> weekends.
<p>Hour/Midnight/Noon: At</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our class starts <i>at</i> 3:30.
<p>Deadlines: By</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The report is due <i>by</i> midnight/Saturday/May.
<p>Time of Day</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>In</i> the morning/afternoon • <i>At</i> night

Prepositions of Direction: To, Into, Onto

To	<p>Moving toward a specific place:</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I walk <i>to</i> school but drive <i>to</i> work. • I'm flying from Los Angeles <i>to</i> New York. • Are you going <i>to</i> the party?
Into	<p>Moving to the inside of an enclosed space:</p> 	<p><i>"In" or "into" can sometimes be used interchangeably:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We jumped <i>into</i> the swimming pool. • We jumped <i>in</i> the swimming pool. <p><i>Otherwise they have different meanings:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We walked <i>into</i> the store. (action) • There were a lot of people <i>in</i> the store. (position)
Onto	<p>Moving toward a surface:</p> 	<p><i>"On" and "onto" can sometimes be used interchangeably:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I stepped <i>onto</i> the platform. • I stepped <i>on</i> the platform. <p><i>Otherwise they have different meanings:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We got <i>onto</i> the train. (action) • We were <i>on</i> the train. (location)