Prepositions

Time prepositions

Preposition	Usage	Example
on	• days of the week	• on Wednesday
in	 month / seasons time of the day year after a certain period of time (when?) 	 in June / in summer in the evening in 2007 in an hour
at	 for the night for the week end at a certain point in time (when?) 	at nightat the weekendat half past ten
since	• from a certain point in time (from the past to the present)	• since 1990
for	• for a certain period of time (past to present)	• for 4 years
ago	• at some point in the past	• 3 years ago
before	• before a certain date	• before 2011
to	• tell the time	• ten to five (4:50)
past	• tell the time	• ten past seven (7:10)
to / till / until	• mark the beginning and end of a time period	• from Monday to/till Friday
till / until	• up to a certain point in time (duration)	• He is on holiday until thursday.
by	 at the latest up to a certain point	 I will be back by 4 o'clock. By 10 o'clock, I had

Preposition	Usage	Example
		read six pages.

Location prepositions (position and direction)

Preposition	Usage	Example
in	 room, building, street, city, city, country book, paper etc car, taxi in a photo, in the world 	 in the kitchen, in Paris in the book in the car, in a taxi in the picture, in the world
at	 next to an object at the table to an event a place to do something specific (cinema, study, work) 	 at the door, at the station at the table at a concert, at the party at the cinema, at school, at work
on	 attached a place with a river placed on a surface for a certain side (right or left) one floor in public transport on TV, radio 	 the picture on the wall London lies on the Thames. on the table on the left on the first floor on the bus, on a plane on TV, on the radio
by, next to, beside	• to the left or right of someone or something	• Tom is standing by/ next to /beside the car.
under	• on the ground, lower (or covered) by something else	• the bag is under the table
below	• underwater	• the dolphins are below the surface
over	 covered by something more than go to the other side (= across) overcome an obstacle 	 put a jacket over your shirt over 18 years of age walk over the bridge climb over the wall

Preposition	Usage	Example
above	• higher than anything else but not directly on it	• a path above the lake
across	 go to the other side (= over) go to the opposite side 	walk across the bridgeswim across the lake
through	• something limited, surrounded on all sides	• drive through the tunnel
to	 movements to a specific place travel to a city, country go to bed 	 go to the cinema go to London / Thailand go to bed
into	• enter a room/building	• go into the kitchen / the house
towards	• movement towards something (but not directly towards it)	• go 6 steps towards the house
onto	• movement at the top of something	• jump onto the table
from	• that comes from somewhere	• a flower from the garden

Other important prepositions

Preposition	Usage	Example
from	• who gave it to him/her	• a present from Tina
of	who/what it belongs towhat it shows	 a page of the book the picture of a castle
by	• who did it	• a book by Shakespeare
on	walking or riding a horseenter public transport	 on foot, on horseback get on the bus
in	• getting into a car/taxi	• get in the car

Preposition	Utilisation	Example
off	• getting off a plane/bus/train etc.	• get off the train
out of	• getting out of a car/taxi	• get out of the taxi
by	 decrease or increase travel (other than on foot/horse) 	 prices have risen by 15 percent by car, by bus, by plane
at	• at what age	• she learned Japanese at 45
about	• for subjects	• we were talking about you