English Preposition

* aboard
* about
* above
* across
* after
* against
* along
* amid
* among
* anti
* around
* as
* at
* before
* behind
* below
* beneath
* beside
* besides
* between
* beyond
* but
* by
* concerning
* considering
* despite
* down
* during
* except
* excepting
* excluding
* following
* for
* from
* in
* inside
* into
* like
* minus
* near
* of
* off
* on
* onto
* opposite
* outside
* over
* past
* per
* plus
* regarding
* round
* save
* since
* than
* through
* to
* toward
* towards
* under
* underneath
* unlike
* until
* up
* upon
* versus
* via
* with
* within
* without

**Prepositions**

[Exercises on Prepositions](http://www.ego4u.com/en/cram-up/grammar/prepositions" \l "exercises)

Prepositions are short words (on, in, to) that usually stand in front of nouns (sometimes also in front of gerund verbs).

Even advanced learners of English find prepositions difficult, as a 1:1 translation is usually not possible. One preposition in your native language might have several translations depending on the situation.

There are hardly any rules as to when to use which preposition. The only way to learn prepositions is looking them up in a [dictionary](http://www.ego4u.com/en/lingopad), reading a lot in English ([literature](http://www.ego4u.com/en/read-on/literature)) and learning useful phrases off by heart ([study tips](http://www.ego4u.com/en/cram-up/learning/gap-filling)).

The following table contains rules for some of the most frequently used prepositions in English:

**Prepositions – Time**

| **English** | **Usage** | **Example** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| * on | * days of the week | * on Monday |
| * in | * months / seasons * time of day * year * after a certain period of time *(when?)* | * in August / in winter * in the morning * in 2006 * in an hour |
| * at | * for *night* * for *weekend* * a certain point of time *(when?)* | * at night * at the weekend * at half past nine |
| * since | * from a certain point of time (past till now) | * since 1980 |
| * for | * over a certain period of time (past till now) | * for 2 years |
| * ago | * a certain time in the past | * 2 years ago |
| * before | * earlier than a certain point of time | * before 2004 |
| * to | * telling the time | * ten to six (5:50) |
| * past | * telling the time | * ten past six (6:10) |
| * to / till / until | * marking the beginning and end of a period of time | * from Monday to/till Friday |
| * till / until | * in the sense of *how long something is going to last* | * He is on holiday until Friday. |
| * by | * in the sense of *at the latest* * up to a certain time | * I will be back by 6 o’clock. * By 11 o'clock, I had read five pages. |

**Prepositions – Place (Position and Direction)**

| **English** | **Usage** | **Example** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| * in | * room, building, street, town, country * book, paper etc. * car, taxi * picture, world | * in the kitchen, in London * in the book * in the car, in a taxi * in the picture, in the world |
| * at | * meaning *next to, by an object* * for *table* * for events * place where you are to do something typical (watch a film, 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 * for a place with a river * being on a surface * for a certain side (left, right) * for a floor in a house * for public transport * for *television, 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 | * left or right of somebody or something | * Jane is standing by / next to / beside the car. |
| * under | * on the ground, lower than (or covered by) something else | * the bag is under the table |
| * below | * lower than something else but above ground | * the fish are below the surface |
| * over | * covered by something else * meaning *more than* * getting to the other side (also *across*) * overcoming an obstacle | * put a jacket over your shirt * over 16 years of age * walk over the bridge * climb over the wall |
| * above | * higher than something else, but not directly over it | * a path above the lake |
| * across | * getting to the other side (also *over*) * getting to the other side | * walk across the bridge * swim across the lake |
| * through | * something with limits on top, bottom and the sides | * drive through the tunnel |
| * to | * movement to person or building * movement to a place or country * for *bed* | * go to the cinema * go to London / Ireland * go to bed |
| * into | * enter a room / a building | * go into the kitchen / the house |
| * towards | * movement in the direction of something (but not directly to it) | * go 5 steps towards the house |
| * onto | * movement to the top of something | * jump onto the table |
| * from | * in the sense of *where from* | * a flower from the garden |

**Other important Prepositions**

| **English** | **Usage** | **Example** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| * from | * who gave it | * a present from Jane |
| * of | * who/what does it belong to * what does it show | * a page of the book * the picture of a palace |
| * by | * who made it | * a book by Mark Twain |
| * on | * walking or riding on horseback * entering a public transport vehicle | * on foot, on horseback * get on the bus |
| * in | * entering a car  / Taxi | * get in the car |
| * off | * leaving a public transport vehicle | * get off the train |
| * out of | * leaving a car  / Taxi | * get out of the taxi |
| * by | * rise or fall of something * travelling (other than walking or horseriding) | * prices have risen by 10 percent * by car, by bus |
| * at | * for *age* | * she learned Russian at 45 |
| * about | * for topics, meaning *what about* | * we were talking about you |

**ADJECTIVE + PREPOSITION**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **nice / kind / good / stupid / silly / intelligent / clever / sensible** (1) **/ (im)polite / rude** (2) / **unreasonable** (3) **OF** someone (to do something): | (1) einfühlsam sein (2) grob sein (3) unvernünftig sein |
|  |  |
| Thank you it was very **nice / kind of you** to help me. |  |
| It's **stupid of her** to go out without a coat. |  |
|  |  |
| **nice** / **kind** / **good** / **(im)polite** / **rude** / **(un)pleasant** (4)/ **(un)friendly** / **cruel TO** someone: | (4) (un)angenehm |
|  |  |
| She has always been very **nice / kind to** me. |  |
| Why are you so **rude / unfriendly to** Ann? |  |
|  |  |
| **angry** / **furious** (5) **ABOUT** something // **WITH** someone **FOR** something: | (5) wütend sein |
|  |  |
| Why are you so **angry about** it? |  |
| They were **furious with me for** not inviting them to my party. |  |
|  |  |
| **pleased** (6) / **disappointed** (7) / **satisfied** (8) **WITH** something: | (6) Gefallen finden (7) enttäuscht sein (8) zufrieden sein |
|  |  |
| I was **pleased with** the present you gave me. |  |
| Were you **disappointed with** your examination results? |  |
|  |  |
| **bored** / **fed up** (9) **WITH** something: | (9) genug haben |
|  |  |
| You get **bored / fed up with** doing the same thing every day. |  |
|  |  |
| **surprised** (10) **/ shocked / amazed** (11) **/ astonished** (12) **AT** / **BY** something: | (10) überrascht sein (11) erstaunt sein (12) sich wundern |
|  |  |
| Everyone was **surprised by /at** the news. |  |
|  |  |
| **exited** / **worried** / **upset** (13) **ABOUT** something: | (13) enttäuscht sein |
|  |  |
| Are you **exited about** going on holiday next week? |  |
|  |  |
| **afraid** / **scared** (14) **/ frightened** / **terrified OF** someone / something | (14) sich fürchten |
|  |  |
| Are you **afraid of** dogs? |  |
|  |  |
| **proud** / **ashamed** (15) **OF** someone / something: | (15) sich schämen |
|  |  |
| I'm not **ashamed of** what I did. |  |
|  |  |
| **good** / **bad** / **excellent** / **brilliant** / **hopeless** (16) **AT** (doing)something: | (16) hoffnungslos |
|  |  |
| I'm not very **good at** repairing things. |  |
|  |  |
| **married** **TO** someone |  |
|  |  |
| Linda is **married to** an American. |  |
|  |  |
| **sorry** **ABOUT** something: |  |
|  |  |
| I'm **sorry about** the noise last night. |  |
|  |  |
| **sorry** **FOR** doing something |  |
|  |  |
| I'm **sorry for** shouting at you yesterday. |  |
|  |  |
| **be** / **feel sorry** **FOR** someone |  |
|  |  |
| I feel **sorry for** George. |  |
|  |  |
| **famous** **FOR** something: |  |
|  |  |
| Florence is **famous for** its art treasures. |  |
|  |  |
| **responsible** (17) **FOR** something: | (17) verantwortlich |
|  |  |
| Who was **responsible for** this noise last night? |  |
|  |  |
| **interested** **IN** something: |  |
|  |  |
| Are you **interested in** art? |  |
|  |  |
| **fond** (18) **OF** something / someone: | (18) gern haben |
|  |  |
| Mary is **fond of** animals. |  |
|  |  |
| **full** **OF** something: |  |
|  |  |
| The letter was **full of** mistakes. |  |
|  |  |
| **short** **OF** (19) something: | (19) wenig, knapp |
|  |  |
| I'm a bit **short of** money. |  |
|  |  |
| **keen** **ON** (20) something: | (20) begeistert sein |
|  |  |
| We stayed at home because Mary wasn't very **keen on** going out in the rain. |  |
|  |  |
| **similar** **TO** (21) something: | (21) ähnlich sein |
|  |  |
| Your writing is **similar to** mine. |  |
|  |  |
| **crowded** **WITH** (22) (people,...) | (22) überfüllt |
|  |  |
| The city was **crowded with** tourists. |  |