

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 such as adjectives and articles come in between.

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

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