

Name:

Date:

PREPOSITIONS (නිපාත)

A preposition describes a relationship between other words in a sentence. Prepositions are nearly always combined with other words in structures called **prepositional phrases**. Prepositional phrases can be made up of a million different words, but they tend to be built the same: a preposition followed by a **determiner** and an adjective ((නාමවිශේෂණ) or two, followed by a pronoun (සර්වනාමය) or noun (නාමපදය) (called the *object* of the preposition). This whole phrase, in turn, takes on a modifying role, acting as an **adjective** (නාමවිශේෂණ) or an **adverb** (ක්‍රියා විශේෂණය), locating something in time and space, modifying a noun, or telling when or where or under what conditions something happened.

Consider the teacher's desk and all the prepositional phrases we can use while talking about it.

You can sit **before** the desk (or **in front of** the desk). The teacher can sit **on** the desk (when he's being informal) or **behind** the desk, and then his feet are **under** the desk or **beneath** (පහත) the desk. He can stand **beside** the desk (meaning **next to** the desk), **before** the desk, **between** the desk and you, or even **on** the desk (if he's really strange). If he's clumsy (අශෝභන), he can bump **into** the desk or try to walk **through** the desk (and stuff would fall **off** the desk). Passing his hands **over** the desk or resting his elbows **upon** the desk, he often looks **across** the desk and speaks **of** the desk or **concerning** the desk as if there were nothing else **like** the desk. Because he thinks of nothing **except** the desk, sometimes you wonder **about** the desk, what's **in** the desk, what he paid **for** the desk, and if he could live **without** the desk. You can walk **toward** the desk, **to** the desk, **around** the desk, **by** the desk, and even **past** the desk while he sits **at** the desk or leans **against** the desk.

All of this happens, of course, in time: **during** the class, **before** the class, **until** the class, **throughout** the class, **after** the class, etc. And the teacher can sit there in a bad mood.

Prepositions of Time: at, on, and in

We use at to designate specific times.

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

We use on to designate days and dates.

My brother is coming on Monday.

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

We use in for 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.

He started the job in 2012.

He's going to quit in August.

Prepositions of Place: at, on, and in

We use at for specific addresses.

He lives at 55 on Samagi Mawatha in Dehiwala.

We use on to designate names of streets, avenues, etc.

Her house is on Samagi Mawatha.

And we use in for the names of land-areas (towns, counties, states, countries, and continents).

She lives in Bambalapitiya.

Bambalapitiya is in Colombo.

Colombo is in Sri Lanka.

Prepositions of Location: in, at, and on and No Preposition

| IN | AT | ON | NO PREPOSITION |
|--------------|--------------|-------------|----------------|
| (the) bed* | class* | the bed* | downstairs |
| the bedroom | home | the ceiling | downtown |
| the car | the library* | the floor | inside |
| (the) class* | the office | the horse | outside |
| the library* | school* | the plane | upstairs |
| school* | work | the train | uptown |

* You may sometimes use different prepositions for these locations.

Prepositions of Movement: to and No Preposition

We use to 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.

With the words *home*, *downtown*, *uptown*, *inside*, *outside*, *downstairs*, *upstairs*, we use no preposition.

Grandma went upstairs. Grandpa went home. They both went outside.

Prepositions of Time: for and since

We use for when we measure time (seconds, minutes, hours, days, months, years).

He held his breath for seven minutes.

She's lived there for seven years.

Terrorists had been fighting in Sri Lanka for 30 years.(3 decades - දශක)

We use *since* with a specific date or time.

He's worked here since 2010.

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

Prepositions with Nouns, Adjectives, and Verbs.

Prepositions are sometimes so firmly wedded to other words that they have practically become one word.

This occurs in three categories: nouns, adjectives, and verbs.

VERBS and PREPOSITIONS 1-87

| | | |
|---------------|-----------------|-------------|
| apologise for | give up | prepare for |
| ask about | grow up | study for |
| ask for | look for | talk about |
| belong to | look forward to | think about |
| bring up | look up | trust in |
| care for | make up | work for |
| find out | pay for | worry about |

ADJECTIVES and PREPOSITIONS 88-119

| | | |
|----------------|---------------|---------------|
| afraid of | fond of | proud of |
| angry at | happy about | similar to |
| aware of | interested in | sorry for |
| capable of | jealous of | sure of |
| careless about | made of | tired of |
| familiar with | married to | worried about |

NOUNS and PREPOSITIONS 120-162

| | | |
|-----------------|--------------|------------------|
| approval of | fondness for | need for |
| awareness of | grasp of | participation in |
| belief in | hatred of | reason for |
| concern for | hope for | respect for |
| confusion about | interest in | success in |
| desire for | love of | understanding of |

A combination of verb and preposition is called a **phrasal verb**. The word that is joined to the verb is then called a **particle**.

Idiomatic (භාෂා චිකිය අයත්) Expressions with Prepositions

- agree *to* a proposal, *with* a person, *on* a price, *in* principle
- argue *about* a matter, *with* a person, *for* or *against* a proposition
- compare *to* to show likenesses, *with* to show differences (sometimes similarities)
- correspond *to* a thing, *with* a person
- differ *from* an unlike thing, *with* a person
- live *at* an address, *in* a house or city, *on* a street, *with* other people

Unnecessary Prepositions

In everyday speech, we fall into some bad habits, using prepositions where they are not necessary. It would be a good idea to eliminate these words altogether, but we must be especially (විශේෂයෙන්ම) careful not to use them in formal, academic prose (ගද්‍ය රචනාව). (Specially විශේෂයෙන්)

- She met ~~up with~~ the new coach in the hallway.
- The book fell off ~~of~~ the desk.
- He threw the book out ~~of~~ the window.
- She wouldn't let the cat inside ~~of~~ the house. [or use "in"]
- Where did they go ~~to~~?
- Put the lamp in back of the couch. [use "behind" instead]
- Where is your college ~~at~~?

Prepositions in Parallel Form

When two words or phrases are used in parallel and require the same preposition to be idiomatically (භාෂා චිකිය) correct, the preposition does not have to be used twice.

You can wear that outfit *in* summer and ~~in~~ winter.

The male was both attracted ~~by~~ and distracted by the female's dance.

However, when the idiomatic use of phrases calls for different prepositions, we must be careful not to omit one of them.

The children were *interested in* and *disgusted by* the movie.

It was clear that this player could both *contribute to* and *learn from* every game he played.

He was *fascinated by* and *enamoured (පෙමෙන් සිත් ගන්නා) of* this beguiling (මුළා කරන)woman.

Home work

1-85 They are learning prepositions.

86-87 I got my horoscope read.

88-119 You are smart.

120-139 There is a match.

140-162 He has a boat.

163-189 Are they learning prepositions?

190-193 Are you smart?

194-200 Are you a permanent employee?

201-208 Is there a match?

209-217 Does he have a boat?