Prepositions of Place, Time and Movement



Kites

Read the passage:

Shreya's friends were waiting for her on the terrace since half an hour. She had finally completed her homework. She climbed up the stairs. Standing between her friends, she spent the next one hour flying kites.



Notice the words in red.

What is the function of such words?

They are called **Prepositions** and they show the relationship between a noun or a pronoun, and the other words in a sentence.

Prepositions of Place

Read the following conversation:

Neeti: Priya, where are you and Rohit?

Priya: We're waiting **at** the bus stop.

Neeti: Oh, I thought you'd be **in** the mall already. I'll come to the bus stop then.

The highlighted words are Prepositions of Place.

Prepositions of Place

- ‘**At**’ is used to show the exact location of something.

  Example: Maria will meet you **at** the café on Third Street.

- ‘**In**’ is used to show something that is in an enclosed space. It denotes a state of rest inside something.

  Example: Your new shoes are kept **in** the cupboard.

- ‘**On**’ is used to show something that is attached to or touching something. **On** is also used while speaking of things at rest.

  Example: Please keep the box **on** the table.

- Some other prepositions of place are beside, behind, above, along, among, below, between etc.



Prepositions of Time

Read the following conversation:

Neeti: Priya, when will your father come back?

Priya: He will come back by 5:30 pm.

Neeti: Will he drop you to the ice cream place?

Priya: Yes, I will reach there at 6:30 p.m. I hope that's not too late?

Neeti: That's fine. That place is open till 9:30 p.m.

The highlighted words are Prepositions of Time.

Prepositions of Time

- ‘**At**’ is used to indicate a point in time.

  Example: The match will begin at 3 p.m.

  ‘**At**’ is also used to indicate indefinite periods of time.

  Example: My mother usually makes various sweets at Diwali.

- ‘**On**’ is used to indicate definite dates and days.

  Example: The coach makes us practice for an extra hour on Thursdays.

- ‘**In**’ is used to indicate longer periods of time.

  Example: We are going for a long vacation in December.

  ‘**In**’ is also indicate a part of the day, month, year or season.

  Example: The children like to play cricket in the evening.



Prepositions of Time

- ‘**By**’ is used to indicate the latest time by which an action will end.

  Example: I will submit the assignment by tomorrow noon.

- ‘**For**’ is used to indicate a period of time.

  Example: She slept only for an hour last night.

  ‘For’ is used with the perfect tense to indicate how long something has continued.

  Example: She has been working in the new company for four months now.



Prepositions of Time

- '**Since**' is used with the perfect tense to show when something started.

  Example: Rahul has been studying in this school

  since 2011.

- '**From**' is used to indicate the time when something begins.

  It is used with to, till or until.

  Example: She stayed in the park from 4 p.m. till 7 p.m.

- '**Till**' or '**Until**' is used to indicate when something

  finishes.

  Example: She studied until midnight.



Prepositions of Movement and Direction

Read the following conversation:

Priya: Neeti, can you tell me the directions to the ice cream place?

Neeti: Sure. After getting off the train, walk down the stairs on your right. Then, walk towards the market.

Priya: Is it next to the stationary shop?

Neeti: No, just walk along the market. When you reach the end of the market, you will spot it across the street.

The highlighted words are Prepositions of Movement and Direction.

Prepositions of Movement and Direction

Direction	Movement
Vinni walked **towards** the school.	We will go **to** Agra by train.
The dog followed mother **into** the kitchen.	The cat jumped **over** the fence to chase the mouse.
I helped my grandmother to climb **down** the stairs.	Don't run **across** the crowded street.
My mother likes to walk **along** the lake in the morning.	Did you know that Rajesh fell **off** his bike?



Commonly Confused Prepositions

- **'Ago' vs 'Before'**

  We use ago after a time phrase.

  Example: My birthday was two days ago.

  We use **before** with the past perfect tense.

  Example: I had celebrated my birthday two days before the actual day.

- **'Beside' vs 'Besides'**

  Beside means 'by the side of'.

  Example: Yash sat beside me during the exam.

  Besides means 'in addition to'.

  Besides watching movies, I also like writing songs.



Commonly Confused Prepositions

- **'After' vs 'In'**

  Both **after** and **in** mean at the end of a period of time.

  Example: They will come home **after** the movie is over.

  Rama will come home **in** an hour.

- **'By' vs 'With'**

  By is used after verbs in the passive voice to denote the agent or doer of the action.

  Example: The claim was made **by** Ria.

  With is used to denote how the action was carried out.

  Example: She maid this painting **with** oil paints.



Commonly Confused Prepositions

- **'Over'** vs **'Above'**

Over is used when one thing touches or covers something, or can be used to mean from one end to another.

Example: The new bridge **over** the river is rocky.

Above, as a preposition, means higher than.

Example: The hill station we will be visiting is 3,500 metres **above** sea level.



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Your Turn to Try



Fill in the blanks using prepositions:

1. She was walking _____ me when she fell.
2. I will reach the airport ____ 12:30 p.m.
3. Do you want to put a bandage ____ the scratch?
4. A new café has opened ____ the street.
5. Their dog is sleeping _____ the sofa.

