

**1 Watch the video on 'Prepositions' part 1,2 and 3 uploaded on 'e-learning platform' of Optimum International School.**

**2 After watching videos read the chapter given below carefully and try to solve exercise A.**

## Prepositions

In this chapter, learn:

- the function of a preposition in the structure of a phrase
- the classification of prepositions based on their form: simple prepositions, compound prepositions, complex prepositions
- to identify the following types of prepositions
  - prepositions of place
  - prepositions of time
  - prepositions of direction
  - prepositions of cause and purpose
- how certain nouns, adjectives and verbs collocate with specific prepositions
- the structure and functions of a prepositional phrase

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A preposition is a word that joins nouns, pronouns or phrases to other words in a sentence. It usually shows the relationship of those words or phrases with other words in the sentence with regard to space, time or reason.

A preposition usually comes before a noun. Often, however, a preposition does not come directly before a noun as there may be determiners or adjectives between them.

We met *after* class. (before the noun)

We met *in* the arts class.

(before the determiner *the* and the adjective *arts*)

Here *after* and *in* are prepositions. The noun that the preposition comes before is called the object of the preposition. In the sentences above, the object of each of the prepositions is the word *class*.

When a preposition is not followed by a noun, it is often called a stranded preposition.

### Grammar Point

A preposition tells us the relation of its object to other words in the sentence. In fact the word *preposition* literally means 'pre-position' because it comes before a noun or a pronoun.

A stranded preposition comes at the end of a sentence when its object is a relative pronoun or an interrogative pronoun (words like *that, who, which*, etc.).

Have you found the shoes *that* you were looking *for*?

(object – relative pronoun *that*)

*What* are you so angry *about*?

(object – interrogative pronoun *what*)



Sometimes we also use the stranded preposition when the object needs to be given greater importance. The preposition is then used after its object and at the end of the sentence.

This is *the play* Mira spoke *about*. (Mira spoke about this play.)

*This* requires looking *into*. (We need to look into this.)

Prepositions can be categorized into three based on their form:

- simple prepositions
- compound prepositions
- complex or phrase prepositions

**Simple Prepositions:** Single-word prepositions are called simple prepositions. Some examples are *in, on, at, by, from, about, over, under, through, till, up, off, of, for, to*, etc.

The children made castles *in* sand.

Did you hear *about* Bina's aunt?

Gary jumped *off* the wall.



**Compound Prepositions:** When two or more words are combined to form one single preposition, we have a compound preposition. Sometimes these may be formed by putting a preposition before a noun, adverb or adjective. At other times, it may be a combination of two prepositions. Some examples of compound prepositions are *into, across, without, within, inside, outside, beneath, below, behind, between*, etc.

The excited children jumped *into* the pool.

The book fell *behind* the cupboard.

Can you manage *without* your reading glasses for two days?



**Complex or Phrase Prepositions:** When a group of words does the work of a single preposition, it is called a complex or phrase preposition. Some two-word complex prepositions are *along with*,

## PREPOSITIONS

*according to, apart from, because of, contrary to, regardless of, prior to, due to, except for, etc.*

Many three-word prepositions have the form:

preposition + noun + preposition

Some such prepositions are *in front of, with reference to, in spite of, in addition to, by means of, in place of, on behalf of, in accordance with, in line with, in relation to, etc.*

I parked the car *in front of* the gate.

*According to* Sagar, the movie is not worth watching.

Many farmers lose their crops *due to* floods.

*In accordance with* the school policy, fees must be paid on time.



### A

#### EXERCISE

**Use simple, compound or complex prepositions to fill in the blanks. Try not to repeat any preposition.**

1. There is a funny umbrella stand \_\_\_\_\_ the door.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ a recent survey, the boy-girl ratio has fallen again.
3. This is \_\_\_\_\_ your letter dated 26 March 2017.
4. You must start \_\_\_\_\_ time.
5. Please look in the box \_\_\_\_\_ the window.
6. The plants \_\_\_\_\_ the front door are beginning to dry up.
7. Life was simpler \_\_\_\_\_ all the modern technical devices that exist today.
8. On the flight from Bagdogra, I sat \_\_\_\_\_ a famous football star.

