

Name (in Romaji):	→
Student Number:	→
Class Day + Period (examples: Monday 2, Friday 3):	→

PREPOSITIONS

Prepositions are words used to express a relationship between a noun or pronoun to another word. Prepositions can show the relationship between things, people, or places. Understanding prepositions will give you the ability to describe things better and narrow down information you read and hear so that you can quickly and easily comprehend the most important parts.

PREPOSITION PROPERTIES

Look at the sentence below:

→ The cat sleeps in a box. ←

What are the parts of speech?

The	=	(definite) article
cat	=	noun (the subject of the sentence)
sleeps	=	verb (third person, present tense)
in	=	preposition (of location)
a	=	(indefinite) article
box	=	noun (object of the preposition)

Preposition Property #1:

If you find a preposition, you will ALWAYS find an object of the preposition.

In the example sentence above, **box** is the object of the preposition. It comes after the preposition and completes what is called a **prepositional phrase**. It is (usually) impossible to find a preposition without also finding an object of the preposition, which can be a noun or a pronoun.



Preposition Property #2:

Prepositional phrases can be added to or removed from a sentence without harming the sentence, although the degree of information the sentence provides will change.

Let's look at our example sentence again:

→ The cat sleeps in a box. ←

If we take out the prepositional phrase, we still have a complete sentence that has a subject and a verb, although the sentence does not give us much information:

→ The cat sleeps. ←

Instead of taking out prepositional phrases, let's add some. Can we add six prepositional phrases to our original sentence? Let's try!

The cat sleeps in a box on a rug under a table by the door
next to the fireplace beside a chair near the kitchen.

Yes, we can! In fact, we can add 100 prepositional phrases if we wanted to, and the sentence will remain grammatical, but that would be too much detailed information for one sentence to handle.

Preposition Property #3:

Prepositional phrases DO NOT influence the pattern of subject-verb agreement.

For example, look carefully at these two sentences:

Sentence #1: The waitress behind the tables likes tea.

Sentence #2: The waitresses in the restaurant like soda.

What is the subject of Sentence #1? It's *waitress*. Is it singular or plural? It's singular. The verb in



Sentence #1 must agree with the singular subject, and it does: **likes** is singular (third person). There is a prepositional phrase (behind the tables), which has a plural object of the preposition, but because the prepositional phrase can be taken out, the verb *likes* remains a singular verb. If we take out the prepositional phrase, the sentence becomes:

The waitress likes tea.

This sentence is OK!

What is the subject of Sentence #2? It's **waitresses**. Is it singular or plural? It's plural. The verb in Sentence #2 must agree with the plural subject, and it does: **like** is plural (third person). There is a prepositional phrase (in the restaurant), which has a singular object of the preposition, but because the prepositional phrase can be taken out, the verb *like* remains a plural verb. If we take out the prepositional phrase, the sentence becomes:

The waitresses like soda. This sentence is OK!

This is why prepositional phrases can be added or taken out of sentences...they have no effect on the sentence itself. They only provide additional information. So don't be tricked by looking at nouns in prepositional phrases found before verbs. They do not affect the verb. If you get confused, remove the prepositional phrase and check for subject-verb agreement.



PREPOSITION PRACTICE

(1) Choose a subject (noun) and verb from the list below.

(2) Write sentences with **TWO PREPOSITIONAL PHRASES**. The prepositional phrases can go in different places in the sentence.

For example: The bus driver with the hat drinks from a paper cup.

My English teacher sleeps in the classroom in the morning.

(3) Check your grammar! Check articles with the nouns in your sentences and subject-verb agreement!

Subject		Verb	
mouse	bird	give	run
children	Santa Claus	eat	drink
store clerk	bus driver	speak	fly
my English teacher	man	sleep	cook

1: _____

2: _____

3: _____

4: _____



PREPOSITIONS OF LOCATION

Do you understand these prepositions of location?

in	at	behind	above/over
on	in front of	between	under/below
on the left (of)	on the right (of)	in the middle (of)	next to/beside

There are two ways to describe the location of something.

☆☆☆ **METHOD #1:** telling specific information about a thing or things ☆☆☆

For this method, the listener **KNOWS** THAT THE NOUN (SUBJECT) EXISTS.

By this method, you state what it is you are talking about first (as the subject of the sentence), then provide information about its location by using prepositions of location.

- For example:
- The book is on my bed next to my pillow.
 - My glasses are on the desk on my dictionary.

Think of these sentences as being made up of FOUR parts:

	SUBJECT	VERB	PREPOSITION	OBJECT OF THE PREPOSITION
singular	The pen	is	on	the table.
plural	The keys	are	next to	the TV.

Notice how the definite article “the” is used in the subject and in the object of the preposition – even for the sentence with the plural subject. This is because you are telling *specific* information in both sentences. Method #1 is therefore used to answer questions like, “Where is the pen?” or “Have you seen the keys?” It is possible to switch “the” with possessive pronouns.

- For example:
- My shirt is in the closet.
 - The photograph is under your notebook.





METHOD #2: giving a description of a scene



For this method, the listener **DOES NOT KNOW** THAT THE NOUN (SUBJECT) EXISTS.

By this method, you describe a scene by telling where things are in that scene. For this method, begin sentences with “There is” or “There are.”

Like the pattern of Method #1, you should think of giving scene descriptions as having FOUR parts.

	“THERE IS/ARE”	NOUN	PREPOSITION	OBJECT OF THE PREPOSITION
singular	There is	a bird	in	a tree.
plural	There are	cookies	on	the plate.

Notice how the indefinite article “a” is used with the noun in the singular sentence: “a bird.” We do not say “the bird” because “bird” is being introduced for the first time. “Tree” is also being introduced for the first time, so it is “a tree.” There are times when it is understood that there is a tree already there (such as when a person describes a scene by looking out of a window of their house). In that case, it is appropriate to say “the tree.”

For example: • There is a bird in the tree.

(the bird is NEW information but the tree is OLD information)

Method #2 is often used to answer questions or requests like, “What do you see?” or “Tell me about things you have in your house.” The same as Method #1, it is possible to switch articles with possessive pronouns, but only if the articles are found with the object of the preposition.

For example: • There is a bird on my car.

• ~~There is my bird in the tree.~~



PREPOSITIONS OF LOCATION: PRACTICE

Practice writing some sentences by **Method #1** by talking about things ***inside your classroom***.

Use TWO PREPOSITIONAL PHRASES for each sentence.

Example: The clock is on the wall above the blackboard.

1: _____

2: _____

3: _____

4: _____

Practice writing some sentences by **Method #2** by describing ***rooms in your house*** (your living room, your bedroom, etc.).

Use TWO PREPOSITIONAL PHRASES + ROOM NAME for each sentence.

Example: There are USB cables in my bedroom in my desk drawer under my diary.

1: _____

2: _____

3: _____

4: _____



PREPOSITIONS FOR USE WITH TIME

The prepositions used to express time are: **in on at**

Use the preposition in for:	period of time	• I studied in the past.
	year	• I studied in 1999.
	season	• I studied in the summer.
	month	• I studied in October.
	part of a day	• I studied in the evening.

Use the preposition on for:	specific day	• I studied on February 13.
		• I studied on Thursday.
	specific day + part of a day	• I studied on Thursday afternoon.

Use the preposition at for:	specific time	• I studied at 11:00.
	specific time + day	• I studied at 3:00 yesterday.

PREPOSITION PRACTICE: TIME

- (1) I will be home _____ the evening.
- (2) I saw that movie _____ Friday.
- (3) My first class today starts _____ 10:40.
- (4) Lunch will be served _____ noon.
- (5) I graduated from high school _____ 2023.
- (6) The test will be administered _____ June 19 and December 8.
- (7) I will arrive in Austin _____ the afternoon.
- (8) The rainy season begins _____ June.
- (9) It is good to eat warm food _____ the winter.
- (10) The deliveryman will be here _____ 3:30 PM.
- (11) I woke up _____ 4 o'clock to go fishing _____ Saturday.
- (12) Her birthday is _____ August 8.
- (13) I get paid _____ the twenty-fifth of each month.
- (14) His day always starts _____ dawn.
- (15) The bats come out _____ dusk.



PREPOSITIONS FOR USE WITH PLACES

Use the preposition **in** for large areas like:

continents	• I live in Africa.
countries	• I live in Ireland.
cities	• I live in Nagoya.
towns	• I live in Lancaster, Texas.

Use the preposition **on** for:

street names	• I live on Sixth Street.
island names	• I live on Iruka Island.
floors	• I live on the second floor.

Use the preposition **at** for:

numbered addresses:	• I live at 3567 Park Place.
institutions	• I study at Austin College.
	• I work at the hospital.

PREPOSITION PRACTICE 1: PLACES

- | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. _____ Bourbon Street | 2. _____ the world | 3. _____ Riverside Drive |
| 4. _____ Stone Road | 5. _____ 41 Stone Road | 6. _____ Hawaii |
| 7. _____ Asia | 8. _____ Brown University | 9. _____ Third Street |
| 10. _____ Dallas, Texas | 11. _____ Miami | 12. _____ Miami Avenue |
| 13. _____ China | 14. _____ Australia | 15. _____ 19th Street |

PREPOSITION PRACTICE 2: PLACES

- (1) I used to live _____ New York before I lived _____ Los Angeles.
- (2) I traveled to Asia and visited my brother _____ Korea.
- (3) The movie theater is _____ Main Street.
- (4) My best friend lives _____ 812 Bordner Street.
- (5) How long have you been here _____ this university?
- (6) I work _____ 27 51st Street.
- (7) It took us one hour to arrive _____ the hospital.

