

Prepositions

This guide will help you understand commonly used prepositions and how they can be used to establish ideas and relationships. These are the nine most frequently used prepositions:

AT	BY	FOR	FROM
IN	OF	ON	WITH
	TO*		

*Note that **TO** plus a noun results in a preposition, **TO** plus a verb results in an infinitive.

Here is a list of other important and often used prepositions. Please note that some prepositions can consist of more than one word.

About	Beyond	Over
Above	Concerning	Owing to
According to	Down	Past
Across	Due to	Since
After	During	Through
Against	Inside	Throughout
Along	In spite of	Toward
Among	Into	Under
Around	Neat	Until
Because of	Next to	Up
Before	Off	Upon
Behind	Onto	Within
Below	Opposite	Without
Beneath	Out	
Besides	Out of	
Between	Outside	

Like – Like is usually a verb, but is a preposition when it is used as a comparison. For example: Michelle danced like a butterfly.

As – As is a preposition when used as a point in time. For example: As a young man, Tom learned to play guitar.

Prepositional phrases often express certain *ideas* or *relationships*. Here are some common relationships expressed by prepositional phrases with examples.

Point in Time

After breakfast

At noon

As a young girl

Duration of Time

For three months

About an hour

Within a few moments

Direction

Toward home

To the east

Through the wormhole

Location

On the hill

Above the clouds

Across the universe

Cause of Reason

Due to illness

Owing to the shortage

Because of budget cuts

Manner

With all my might

By thinking clearly

In spite of my critics