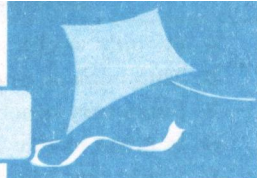


The Preposition



A preposition is a word placed before a noun or pronoun to show its relation with something else.

Study the following sentences :

1. He is putting his pen into his pocket.
2. Your pen is on the table.
3. I shall go with you.

In these sentences into, on, with are showing relationship with pocket, table, you.

The noun or pronoun is used with a preposition as its object. But sometimes a preposition has two or more objects, as :

I am looking for my brother and my friend. Though the object of a preposition is generally a noun or a pronoun, it can sometimes be an adverb or time or place also, as :

I went from there to Shimla.

He must have graduated by now.

A preposition is usually placed before its object, but sometimes follows it.

KINDS OF PREPOSITION

There are five kinds of prepositions :

1. Simple Prepositions : In, of, on, off, to, up, with, at, by, for, under, through, till, since, round, past, over, from, down, after etc.

2. Compound Prepositions : Without, within, outside, inside, into, behind, beneath, about, aboard, across, against, along, amidst, among, around, before, beside, between, beyond, throughout, towards, underneath, until, upon etc.

3. Double Prepositions : Outside of, out of, from out, from behind, from beneath, from under, from within.

4. Participle Prepositions : Notwithstanding, concerning, pending, considering, during, excepting, excluding, including, regarding, respecting, saving.

5. Phrase Prepositions : By means of, because of, on account of, in apposition to, with regard to, for the sake of, instead of, on behalf of, with a view to, in the event of.

Some special points about the usage of Preposition :

I. A preposition is never placed between a transitive verb and its object, as :

- (a) I read a book.
- (b) He killed a snake.
- (c) I lead a contented life.

II. Sometimes a preposition is used after a noun or a pronoun also, as :

- (a) A knife is to cut with.
- (b) What are you looking for ?
- (c) What is she laughing at ?

CORRECT USE OF PREPOSITIONS

In, at : (a) Normal 'At' is used with names of small towns and places, 'in' is used with the names of big cities and countries, as :

1. He lives at Solan.
2. I live at Hamirpur.
3. He lives in Calcutta in India.
4. She lives in Los Angeles in the U.S.A.

(b) 'At' is used for a point of time and 'in' is used for a period of time, as :

I shall leave office at 5 o' clock in the evening. 'In' is used with morning, evening, after noon and 'at' is used with 'noon', 'night', 'day break', down, sun set.

In, within : Look at the following sentences :

1. I shall come back in a day or two.
2. I shall return within a week.

'In' denotes after the lapse of a future period of time and 'within' denotes before the lapse of a future period of time.

In, into : Examine the following sentences :

1. He was in the class when I went into the class.
2. There was no water in the pitcher, he poured water into the pitcher.
3. He jumped into the well.
4. The purse is in my pocket.

'In' is used with verbs denoting rest while 'into' is used with verbs denoting movement.

Between, among : Examine the following sentences :

1. He divided the property between the two brothers.
2. Distribute these mangoes among the children.

'Between' is used for two persons or things and 'among' for more than two persons and things.

From, Since : 'From' and 'since' both denote a point of time but 'from' can be used with all the forms of tenses while 'since' is used only with Perfect and Perfect Continuous Tenses.

Look at the following sentences :

1. He is in his office from ten to four every working day.
2. I am busy from dawn to dusk.
3. He has been ill since Monday.
4. I have known him since 1976.
5. I have been staying in this town since January 15, 1980.

Since, for : Examine the following sentences :

1. I have lived here for many days.
2. The boys have been playing for three hours.
3. I have been working in this office for the last ten years.
4. He has been residing here since 1975.

As already explained 'since' denotes a point of time and can be used with, Perfect and Perfect Continuous Tenses. 'For' denotes a period of time and can be used with any tense.

Besides, besides : 'Beside' means by the side of us :

- (a) He is sitting besides me.
- (b) My house is situated beside the road.

'Besides' means 'in addition' 'to', as :

- (a) Besides salary I gave my servant food and clothing also.
- (b) Besides his father, his mother was also present there.

By, with : Note down the following sentences :

- (a) The snake was killed by him with a stick.
- (b) The tree was cut down by him with an axe.

'By' is used with the doer while 'with' is used with the instrument.

On, upon : Examine the following sentences :

- (a) We sat on a bench.
- (b) The dog sprang upon the cat.

'On' is used for the things at rest and upon for things in motion.

Words followed by appropriate prepositions

A

Nouns following by prepositions :

1. Taste for : I have no taste for languages.
2. Ear for : He has no ear for music.
3. Respect for : You should have respect for your elders.
4. Prey to : He fell a prey to malaria.
5. Match for : I am no match for you.
6. Worthy of : May you prove yourself worthy of the trust reposed in you !
7. Regard for : I have great regard for him.
8. Cure for : There is no cure for cancer.
9. Duty to : We owe a duty to our country.
10. Excuse for : You have no excuse for coming late.
11. Faith in : He lost faith in his friends.

B

Adjectives followed by prepositions :

1. Tired of : He is tired of his servant.
2. Sick of : The old man is sick of this life.
3. Proud of : I am proud of my country.
4. Ignorant of : He is quite ignorant of facts.
5. Hopeful of : He is still hopeful of facts.
6. Fond of : Sham is fond of music.
7. Blind of : He is blind of one eye.
8. Afraid of : I am afraid of ghosts.
9. Angry with : The teacher is angry with me.

10. Angry at : He is angry at your behaviour.
11. Blind to : He is blind to the faults of his children.
12. Good at : I am not good at Urdu.
13. Guilty of : He is guilty of murder.

C

Verbs followed by prepositions :

1. Trust in : Trust in God and do the right.
2. Send for : Please send for the doctor at once.
3. Reply to : He did not reply to my letter.
4. Rely on : I do not rely on liars.
5. Pray to : I pray to God every morning.
6. Part from : He parted from his mother with a heavy heart.
7. Part with : Nobody wants to part with money.
8. Long for : I am longing for contentment.
9. die of : He died of cholera.
10. Feed on : A cow feeds on grass.
11. Deprive of : Do not deprive the poor of their rights.
12. Deal in : His father deals in cloth.
13. Consist of : This book consists of stories.
14. Listen to : Please listen to what I say.
15. Avail of : He availed himself to the opportunity to go abraod.
16. Agree of : He did not agree to my proposal.
17. Agree with : I generally agree with my friend.
18. Act on : She acts on her father's advice.
19. Break into : The thieves broke into his house at night.
20. Break up : The meeting borke up at four.
21. Jump at : He at once jumped at the solution.
22. Think of : I cannot think of any solution to this problem.
23. Look for : He is looking for a job.
24. Look after : The parents look after their children.
25. Look into : The Principal is looking into the matter.
26. Look upon : He looks upon me as his friend.
27. Carry on : Please carry on as usual.
28. Carry out : He carried out my orders.

EXERCISE-XII

Fill in the blanks with appropriate prepositions :

1. He died cholera.
2. A knife is to cut
3. The hunter aimed the bird.
4. The children laughed the beggar.

5. He jumped the well.
 6. He went to Shimla train.
 7. I go to school foot.
 8. The lion was killed the hunter a gun.
 9. This book belongs Gopal.
 10. The poor man asked food.
 11. Do not be proud your wealth.
 12. He has been ill four days.
 13. He has been dismissed service.
 14. I did not expect this you.
 15. This pen is different that.
 16. Why do you cry spilt milk.
 17. He is not qualified the post.
 18. I differ you this point.
 19. Beware imitation.
 20. I was shocked the cruel treatment.
 21. Mohan is senior Sohan.
 22. The carpenter cut his finger a saw.
 23. The driver was driving the jeep the fullspeed.
 24. It has been raining Monday.
 25. My father deals sugar.
 26. I bought this chair ten rupees.
 27. He has been here 4 o'clock.
 28. He is busy from eight twelve.
 29. The boy hit me his stick.
 30. Do not be angry me.
 31. Will you stand me ?
 32. The baby feeds milk.
 33. The fools are blind their defects.
 34. Lucky is the man who is blessed good health.
 35. You are proud your family.
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