

Prepositions

A preposition is an important word used with a noun or noun equivalent to show its relation with some other word in the sentence.

- **In** - 'In' is generally used before the names of countries and large cities, or before the name of the place in which one is at the time of speaking:

in a country, **in** town

- **At** - 'At' is used when there is a small extent of space or time. When we refer to small towns or villages, we use 'at'. 'At' means inside, just outside or just beside the building.

- **In, into** - 'In' denotes position of rest inside something; while 'into' denotes motion or direction towards the inside of something.

- **On, At, In (for time)**

On is used with the days of the week or month:

on Sunday, **on** March 28

At is used with exact time:

at five, **at** midnight

In is used with a period of time:

in the evening, **in** 1970

Prepositions - II

- **To, till (until)** - These are both used for time:
six **to** nine, **till** twelve
- **To, At (Movement):**
To is used to express motion from one place to another.
At expresses place or position.
- **For, Since, From (Time):**
For shows a period of time: **for** three months
Since is used with a point in time at which an action started, and the action is then considered to continue to the time of speaking: **since** December
From can be used for place and time both. When denoting a point of time, it must be followed by 'to' or 'till':
from morning **till** evening, **from** today
- **Beside, Besides** - **Beside** means 'at' or 'by the side of',
Besides means 'in addition to'.
Beside river, **besides** roses, there were marigolds.
- **Between, Among**
Between is used for two persons or two things only.
Among is used for more than two.
between the rocks
among the hills

Preposition - III

• For, During (Time)

For is used for a period of time definite in length. It shows that the action continues for the whole time or period: **for** two hours

During: Its action can either last the whole period or occur at sometime within the period.

• With, By- With relates to instrument :

He hit the ball **with** a rod.

By relates to the agent or the doer :

A snake was killed **by** him.

• In, After (Time)

In shows the close of some future period, while **after** relates to the past.

In the future, **After** I crossed the road...

• On, upon :

On is generally used in speaking of things at rest, while **upon** is used to speak of things in motion.

• In, Within :

In denotes the close or end of some period, while **within** denotes some time short of the close.

• After - must be followed by a noun or a noun equivalent.

He fell ill **after** the race.

Afterwards is an adverb that is used when there is no noun or noun equivalents.