



University of Bejaia
Faculty of Human and Social sciences
Department of Psychology
Master I/II students of Clinical Psychology
Teacher: Mrs. AIT ELDJOURI
E-mail: karima.aiteldjoudi@shs.univ-bejaia.dz

Prepositions

A preposition is a word that is placed before a noun or a pronoun to show a relationship in a sentence.

For example:

- The parcel **on** the table is for you.

Some prepositions express time, other prepositions express place, etc.

Prepositions of time

1- **At, on, in**

➤ **At**

We use “at” with a point in time or someone’s age.

For example:

- **At** midnight.
- She was married **at** sixteen.

Exceptions: **at** Christmas, **at** night.

➤ **On**

We use “on” with a day or a date and with the morning/afternoon of a day/date,

For example:

- **On** Monday. **On** Christmas day. **On** 4 June.
- **On** the morning of 6 December. **On** Friday evening.

➤ **In**

We use “in” with periods of time.

For example:

- **In** five minutes.
- **In** the 19th century.
- **In** the morning/ afternoon/ evening (but **at** night).

2- **By, before, after**

➤ **By**

“By” with a point in time or a date means “at or earlier than”.

For example:

- Be at the station **by** 6, your train leaves at 6:15.
- She wants the job finished **by** the end of May/ **by** 31 May.

➤ **Before**

“Before” means “earlier than”.

For example:

- If you get home **before** me you can make the supper.

➤ **After**

We use “after” to mean “following”.

For example:

- Do not go swimming immediately **after** a meal/ **after** eating.

Prepositions of place

➤ **At, in**

- We can be **at** home/ work/ the office/ school/ university/ an address or a certain point such as a bus-stop/ a bridge.
- We can be **in** a country / a town/ a village/ a street/ a room/ a wood/ a field or any place which is enclosed.
- We can be **at** or **in** a building. **At** means “**inside**” or just “**outside**”. **In** means “**inside**” only.
- We can be **at** or **in** the sea/ a river/ a lake/ a swimming pool. **At** means “**near/beside**”. **In** means actually in the water. **At** means “**on**” a ship.

➤ **In, into**

We normally use “**in**” for place and “**into**” for movement or entrance.

But: with the verb “to put” we can use either “**in**” or “**into**”.

For example:

- He keeps his savings **in** an old biscuits-tin.
- They climbed **into** the lorry.
- He put his hands **in/into** his pockets.

➤ **On, onto**

We use “**on**” for both place and movement.

We use “**onto**” for movement when there is a change in level.

For example:

- She was sitting **on** the sofa.
- People climbed **onto** their roofs to escape the floods.

Activity: complete the following sentences with “**at, in, on, after, before** or **by**”.

- He likes travelling night and usually starts his journey very late the evening or very early the morning.
- Mary is home, but she is not the house; she is the garden.
- Bill is work but he is not his office at the moment.
- It is his lunch hour and he is a travel agent’s, looking at holiday brochures.
- John, their son, is usually school at this time, but he has a bad cold so his mother has kept him home and told him to stay bed.

“If you bring it back this date you will have to pay a fine” said the librarian. “You must bring the book back this date”. “ Can I bring it back before this date?” I asked. “ Sometimes reading the first chapter I decide that I do not like the book”. “ Bring it back the next day if you like” , said the librarian. “By the way, you hand your book in, check that you have not left anything in it. Yesterday a reader had gone we found a 5 dollars note in his book!”.