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Level: Third Year LMd

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Lesson 3: English Grammar “How to Use Preposition in English Grammar (On, At, In, Of, For)”

What is a preposition?

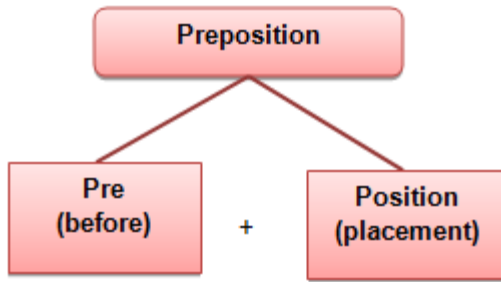
Prepositions are the words that join a noun, pronoun or the noun phrases and make each sentence complete. However, learning preposition is little tricky and hence, students should be conscious while reading a book or other documents and check the usage of the preposition.

Examples:

To the office, on the table, about myself, in a few minutes, at my place, etc.

Here, ‘to’, ‘on’, ‘about’, ‘in’ and ‘at’ are the prepositions.

Moreover, prepositions are used in the sentences to indicate a location, direction, time or sometimes, to introduce an object. Some common prepositions and their applications in the sentences are mentioned here.



Prepositions

On:

On (refers a surface of something)- I kept the dishes on the dining table.

On (specifies days and dates)* I will come on Monday.

*Radha was born on 15th August.

On (refers TV or other devices)* She is on the phone.

*My favorite movie will be on TV now.

On (refers the parts of the body) * I keep wearing my wedding ring on my finger.

On (to refer a state) * The products available in the store are on sale.

At:

At (to indicate a place)- There are a good number of people at the park.

At (to refer an email address)- Please mail in detail @

(at) radha@def.com

At (to refer a time) — Meet me at 5 p.m. tomorrow.

At (indicate one's activity)-John laughed at my acting in the play.

In:

In (to indicate a location)- I am in my friend's place now.

In (used while doing something) — the tagline should be catchy *in* marketing a product.

In (to indicate opinion, belief, feeling, etc.) *I believe in hardworking.

In (specify day, month, season, year) *I prefer to do Maths in the morning.

The new academic session will commence in March.

In (to indicate color, shape and size) * This dress comes in four sizes.

To:

To (to indicate the direction, place)*The friends went to the restaurant.

*I am heading to my college.

To (to indicate relationship) *Do not respond to the annoying persons.

*Your answer is important to me.

To (to indicate a limit) *The old newspapers were piled up to the roof.

To (to refer a period) *I am here from 10 to 5.

Of:

Of (to indicate relating to, belonging to) — I always dreamed of being famous.

Of (to indicate reference) — This is a picture of my last birthday.

Of (to specify the number or an amount) — A good number of people understand Hindi.

For:

For (to indicate the reason or because of) — I am really happy for

you.

For (to indicate the duration or time) — I attended the session for one year only.

For (specify the use of something) — She is preparing for her final exam.

Prepositions of Time - at, in, on

We use:

- **at** for a PRECISE TIME
- **in** for MONTHS, YEARS, CENTURIES and LONG PERIODS
- **on** for DAYS and DATES

at PRECISE TIME	in MONTHS, YEARS, CENTURIES and LONG PERIODS	on DAYS and DATES
at 3 o'clock	in May	on Sunday
at 10.30am	in summer	on Tuesdays
at noon	in the summer	on 6 March
at dinnertime	in 1990	on 25 Dec. 2010
at bedtime	in the 1990s	on Christmas Day

at sunrise	in the next century	on Independence Day
at sunset	in the Ice Age	on my birthday
at the moment	in the past/future	on New Year's Eve

Look at these examples:

- I have a meeting **at** 9am.
- The shop closes **at** midnight.
- Jane went home **at** lunchtime.
- In England, it often snows **in** December.
- Do you think we will go to Jupiter **in** the future?
- There should be a lot of progress **in** the next century.
- Do you work **on** Mondays?
- Her birthday is **on** 20 November.
- Where will you be **on** New Year's Day?

Notice the use of the preposition of time **at** in the following standard expressions:

Expression	Example
at night	The stars shine at night .
at the weekend*	I don't usually work at the weekend .
at Christmas*/Easter	I stay with my family at Christmas .
at the same time	We finished the test at the same time .
at present	He's not home at present . Try later.

***Note that in some varieties of English people say "on the weekend" and "on Christmas".**

***Notice the use of the prepositions of time in and on in these common expressions:**

in	on
in the morning	on Tuesday morning
in the mornings	on Saturday mornings

in the afternoon(s)	on Sunday afternoon(s)
in the evening(s)	on Monday evening(s)

When we say **last**, **next**, **every**, **this** we do not also use **at**, **in**, **on**.

- I went to London **last** June. (**not** in last June)
- He's coming back **next** Tuesday. (**not** on next Tuesday)
- I go home **every** Easter. (**not** at every Easter)
- We'll call you **this** evening. (**not** in this evening)

Prepositions of Location

To refer to a location, use the prepositions:

"in" (an area or volume), **"at"** (a point), and **"on"** (a surface).

- They live **in** the country. (an area)
- She will find him **at** the library. (a point)
- There is a lot of dirt **on** the window. (a surface)