Course 04

Prepositions and Conjunctions

Teacher: Dr. Lakhdari Khaoula

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Introduction

This course is designed to help you master two fundamental parts of speech in the English language. Prepositions and conjunctions are essential for building clear and cohesive sentences, making them critical elements of effective communication. By the end of the course, you will have a solid understanding of how to correctly identify and use these words in your writing and speaking.

Course Objectives

01 **One**

Understanding the Role and Functions of prepositions and conjunctions in sentence structure.

02 **Two**

Identify different types of prepositions and conjunctions and understand their usage in different contexts.

03 **Three**

Develop proficiency in using prepositions and conjunctions correctly, including avoiding common errors

04 **Four**

Applying prepositions and conjunctions in spoken and written communication.

01

Prepositions

Definition of Prepositions

Prepositions are a category of words in grammar that typically **express spatial or temporal relationships between elements in a sentence**. These relationships include the way elements relate to one another in terms of location, direction, time, or manner. Prepositions are often used before nouns, pronouns to indicate the noun's role or relationship to the rest of the sentence.

Categories of Prepositions

A. Prepositions Used to Describe Location

These prepositions express a spatial relationship between two elements in a sentence, often indicating where one entity is in relation to another. They describe the location, direction, or position of an object, person, or event.

A. Prepositions Used to Describe Location

Preposition	Usage	Example
in	Locations enclosed or surrounded by something.	She is ***in*** the house.
on	Locations on a surface.	The book is ***on*** the table.
at	Specific points or positions.	He is ***at*** the bus stop.
by	Locations that are near or next to something.	He is sitting ***by*** the window.
near	Locations close to something.	The store is ***near*** the park.
above	Locations higher than something.	The bird is flying ***above*** the tree.
below	Locations lower than something.	The temperature outside is currently ***below*** freezing.
under	Locations beneath something.	The cat is hiding ***under*** the bed.

Notes:

"By": When you use "by," it typically implies a closer proximity or a specific point of contact with an object or location.
Exp: He's standing by the door." (He is standing close to the door, possibly touching it.)
"The car is parked by the house." (The car is next to the house, possibly touching it.)
"Near": When you use "near," it indicates a general proximity or closeness, but not necessarily direct contact or adjacency.
"There's a cafe near the library." (The cafe is in the same area as the library, but not necessarily next to it.)
"Below": often refer to both physical and conceptual positions. For example: "The temperature is below zero."
"**Under**" It is often used when referring to the relative positions of objects and their physical contact, for example: "The report is under the file."

A. Prepositions Used to Describe Location

Preposition	Usage	Example
beside	Locations that are next to something.	The book is *beside* the lamp
between	Locations that are in the middle of two things.	The playground is *between* the two buildings.
inside	Locations that are surrounded by something.	The money is *inside* the box.
outside	Locations that are not inside something.	It is raining *outside*.
across	Locations on the other side of something, It implies a sense of moving from one side to the other	The park is *across* the street.
through	Locations that involve moving from one side to another.	We walked *through* the tunnel.
among	Locations surrounded by a group of things.	She found the red apple *among* the green ones.
beneath	Locations below something.	The key is *beneath* the cushion.
toward(s)	Locations that indicate direction.	He walked *toward(s)* the bridge.

Notes:
Beside: often used in a parallel position. It indicates a physical closeness or proximity. For example: "She sat beside her friend in class."
By: is used to describe something that is near something else, but it doesn't necessarily indicate as much physical closeness as **beside** does. It is more general. For Example: "She stood by the door, waiting for her friend."
Beneath: same meaning of "**under**"

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A. Prepositions Used to Describe Location

Preposition	Usage	Example
onto	Locations involving movement from one surface to another, especially in a vertical direction.	The cat jumped ***onto*** the table.
opposite	Locations that are directly facing someone or facing towards something else.	The gas station is ***opposite*** the bank.
in front	Used to describe a location that is ahead something or someone.	The car is parked ***in front*** of the house.
around	Locations that involve going in a circular path.	We walked ***around*** the park.
against	Locations that involve touching or being in contact with something, or in close proximity to something else.	The painting is ***against*** the wall
over	Locations that involve crossing or moving above something.	The plane flew ***over*** the mountains.

B. Prepositions Used to Describe Time

B. Prepositions Used to Describe Time

Preposition	Usage	Example
at	Specific points or moments in time.	I will see you *at* 7:00 PM.
in	A larger or more general period of time.	She will be back *in* a few days.
on	Specific days or dates.	He has an appointment *on* Monday.
during	Within the time that an event takes place.	We went shopping *during* the weekend.
since	From a point in time in the past until now.	He has been working here *since* 2015.
until/till	Used to indicate the endpoint of a period of time.	The meeting will last *until* 3:00 PM.
for	Used to indicate the duration of time.	I will be gone *for* two hours.
from	Used to indicate a starting point in time.	We have class *from* 9:00 AM *to* 11:00 AM.

B. Prepositions Used to Describe Time

Preposition	Usage	Example
to	Used to indicate the endpoint of a period of time.	We have class *from* 9:00 AM ***to*** 11:00 AM.
by	Used to indicate the time or date at which something is expected or required to be completed.	Please submit your report ***by*** Friday.
within	Used to indicate a period of time that is before or after a particular point in time.	We need the report ***within*** the next hour.
throughout	Used to indicate that something occurs or continues to exist for the whole of a specified period of time.	He has been working ***throughout*** the night.
over	Used to indicate a duration of time.	She will be on vacation ***over*** the summer.

Notes:

"**By**" is used to indicate a **specific point in time** before which something must be completed or a certain event must occur.
It suggests a deadline or a limit. It implies that the action will be completed at some point before this time.
For example: "Please submit your report by **Friday**."
"Within": Is used to indicate a **time frame** that something must be completed or an event must occur within.
For example: You must complete the task within **two weeks**.

Preposition	Usage	Example
by the end of	Used to indicate a point in time by which something should be completed.	Please finish the project *by the end* of the week.
until now	Up to the present time.	He has lived here *until now*.
by now	Indicates that something is expected to have happened by the present time.	He should have arrived *by now*.
during the course of	During the process of something.	She improved her skills *during the course of* her studies.
by the time	Used to indicate the time at which something is expected to happen.	I will be home *by the time* you arrive.

Notes:

"During the course of" It is typically means "throughout" or "in the process of" and is used to describe actions or events that take place over a period of time.
"During" It is simply means "at some point within the time of"

Preposition	Usage	Example
after	Used to indicate that something happens later than another event or time.	They went home *after* the party ended.
between	Used to indicate a period of time that is between two specific points.	We will be on vacation *between* July and August.
about	Used to indicate that something is close to or approximately at a particular time.	The meeting is *about* to start.
before	Used to indicate that something happens earlier than another event or time.	She arrived *before* the meeting started.
every	Used to indicate that something happens or is done at regular intervals.	They have a meeting *every* Monday.

02

Conjunctions

Definition of Conjunctions

Conjunctions are words that connect words, phrases, or clauses in a sentence. They serve several functions in a sentence, including indicating relationships between elements, **showing logical connections, and linking ideas**. Conjunctions can be classified into different categories based on their specific functions and the types of elements they connect. Some common types of conjunctions include coordinating, subordinating, and correlative conjunctions.

1. Coordinating Conjunctions Coordinating conjunctions join words or phrases that are of equal importance in the sentence. There are seven coordinating conjunctions in English: for, and, nor, but, or, yet, and so.

Coordinating Conjunction	Usage	Example
For	Used to give a reason or explanation.	She likes to exercise, *for* it makes her feel good.
And	Used to connect two similar elements.	He likes apples *and* oranges.
Nor	Used to join two negative elements.	He does not like tea *nor* coffee.
But	Used to indicate a contrast.	She is tired, *but* she will finish the work.
Or	Used to present an alternative.	We can go to the park *or* the beach.
Yet	Used to express a contrast or surprise.	He is smart, *yet* he failed the test.
So	Used to indicate a result or conclusion.	It rained heavily, *so* we had to cancel our plans.

Note:

"Yet" : Used as a synonym for "nevertheless" or "however" to introduce a different perspective or a contrasting idea.
However, it can be used to indicate that an event or action has not happened or is not the case until the present time or until a specified time in the future.
Example: "I haven't eaten **yet**."

2. Subordinating Conjunctions: Subordinating conjunctions introduce dependent clauses, which cannot stand alone as complete sentences. They indicate the relationship between the dependent clause and the independent clause in the sentence.

Subordinating Conjunction	Usage	Example
After	Indicates a point in time after an event occurs.	*After* I graduated, I moved to New York.
Although	Introduces a contrasting idea.	*Although* she studied hard, she failed the exam.
As	Indicates the manner in which something is done.	*As* he was leaving, he waved goodbye.
Because	Indicates the reason for an action.	She won't go outside *because* it's raining.
Before	Indicates a point in time before an event occurs.	He likes to have a cup of coffee *before* he starts work.
Even though	Introduces a surprising or contrasting idea.	*Even though* it was raining, she went for a walk.
If	Indicates a condition or possible situation.	*If* it's hot, we'll go swimming.

Note:
Although and **Even though** have a similar meaning

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2. Subordinating Conjunctions: Subordinating conjunctions introduce dependent clauses, which cannot stand alone as complete sentences. They indicate the relationship between the dependent clause and the independent clause in the sentence.

Subordinating Conjunction	Usage	Example
When	Indicates the time or occasion for an action.	We'll go for a walk *when* the rain stops.
Whenever	Indicates the time or occasion when something happens.	He gets nervous *whenever* he has to speak in public.
Where	Indicates the place or location of an action.	I'll meet you *where* we first met.
Whereas	Indicates a contrast between two things.	He is very tall, *whereas* his brother is short.
While	Indicates that two actions are happening at the same time.	She read a book *while* she waited for her appointment.
Whether	Indicates two possibilities or alternatives.	I don't know *whether* it will rain or not.
While	Indicates that two actions are happening at the same time.	She read a book *while* she waited for her appointment.

3. Correlative Conjunctions: Correlative conjunctions are pairs of words that work together to join two or more elements in a sentence. They come in pairs such as either...or, neither...nor, both...and, not only...but also, and whether...or.

Correlative Conjunction	Usage	Example
Either...Or	Presents an alternative between two options.	You can *either* go to the party *or* stay at home.
Neither...Nor	Represents the negative form of "either...or."	She can *neither* sing *nor* dance.
Both...And	Indicates that both things are true or possible.	*Both* the father *and* the son were involved in the project.
Not Only...But Also	Emphasizes that two things are true or possible.	She is *not only* beautiful *but also* intelligent.
Whether...Or	Used to introduce two possibilities.	I'm not sure *whether* to choose the red dress *or* the blue dress.
As...As	Used to make comparisons.	I'm *as* tall *as* my brother.
Such...That	Used to express the degree or manner of something.	She was *such* a good student *that* she got a scholarship.

3. Correlative Conjunctions: Correlative conjunctions are pairs of words that work together to join two or more elements in a sentence. They come in pairs such as either...or, neither...nor, both...and, not only...but also, and whether...or.

Correlative Conjunction	Usage	Example
Such...That	Indicates a result or consequence.	The weather was *such* bad *that* the event had to be canceled.
So...That	Indicates a result or consequence.	The weather was *so* bad *that* the event had to be canceled.
Such...As	Indicates a comparison with something similar.	She is *such* a good cook *as* her mother.
No Sooner...Than	Indicates that something happened immediately after another thing.	He had *no sooner* arrived *than* it started to rain.
Hardly...When	Indicates that something happened immediately after another thing.	She had *hardly* left the house *when* it started to rain.

Note:
No Sooner...Than and **Hardly...When** have a similar meaning

03

Exercices

Exercise 1

Fill in the blanks with the appropriate preposition from the provided list:
Around, by, near, in, above, on, in front, below, at, through, between

1. The artwork is displayed _____ the gallery.

2. The clock hangs _____ the wall.

3. We met _____ the entrance.

4.There's a fountain _____ the park bench.

5.The restaurant is _____ the train station.

6.The chandelier hangs _____ the table.

7.The kitchen is _____ the living room.

8.The light filters _____ the stained glass.

9.The couch is placed _____ two end tables.

10.The dog runs _____ the yard.

11.The statue stands _____ of the library.

Solution Exercise 1

Fill in the blanks with the appropriate preposition from the provided list:Around, by, near, in, above, on, in front, below, at, through, between

1.In: The artwork is displayed **in** the gallery.

2.On: The clock hangs **on** the wall.

3.At: We met **at** the entrance.

4.By: There's a fountain **by** the park bench.

5.Near: The restaurant is **near** the train station.

6.Above: The chandelier hangs **above** the table.

7.Below: The kitchen is **below** the living room.

8.Through: The light filters **through** the stained glass.

9.Between: The couch is placed **between** two end tables.

10.Around: The dog runs **around** the yard.

11.In front: The statue stands **in front** of the library.

Exercise 2

Fill in the blanks with the appropriate preposition from the provided list:

Until, After, since, at, during, before, by, throughout

1. The renovation began _____ the approval of the design.

2. The building was designed _____ the new regulations were enforced.

3. Construction workers were working _____ the day and night to finish on time.

4. The structure has been standing _____ the 1800s.

5. The architect will finalize the design _____ next week.

6. The gallery is open _____ the week.

7. The city council meeting is scheduled to start ____ 2 p.m.

8. The construction will not be completed _____ next year.

Solution Exercise 2

Fill in the blanks with the appropriate preposition from the provided list:

Until, After, since, at, during, before, by, until, throughout

1. After: The renovation began **After** the approval of the design.

2. Before: The building was designed **before** the new regulations were enforced.

3. During: Construction workers were working **during** the day and night to finish on time.

4. Since: The structure has been standing **since** the 1800s.

5. By: The architect will finalize the design **by** next week.

6. Throughout: The gallery is open **throughout** the week.

7. At: The city council meeting is scheduled to start **at** 2 p.m.

8. Until: The construction will not be completed **until** next year.

Exercise 3

Fill in the blanks with the appropriate coordinating conjunctions:

But, so, or, and, yet, nor, for.

1. The architect designed the building _____ both beauty and functionality.

2. The interior design integrates modern _____ traditional elements.

3. Neither the doors _____ the windows are aligned properly.

4. The building's design is simple _____ elegant.

5. You can choose to use wood ___ metal for the roofing.

6. The building's structure is old, _____ it still stands strong.

7. The architect designed the building with a sustainable approach, _____ it uses less energy.

Solution Exercise 3

Fill in the blanks with the appropriate coordinating conjunctions:

But, so, or, and, yet, nor, for.

1. For: The architect designed the building **for** both beauty and functionality.

2. And: The interior design integrates modern **and** traditional elements.

3. Nor: Neither the doors **nor** the windows are aligned properly.

4. But: The building's design is simple **but** elegant.

5. Or: You can choose to use wood **or** metal for the roofing.

6. Yet: The building's structure is old, **yet** it still stands strong.

7. So: The architect designed the building with a sustainable approach, **so** it uses less energy.

Exercise 4

Fill in the blanks with the appropriate subordinating conjunctions:

As if, wherever, If, because, While, When, unless, where, Although, after.

1. The building construction was started _____ the architect's design was finalized.
2. _____ the building was modern, it retained elements of classical architecture.
3. The building's facade was designed to look _____ it were made of stone, though it was actually concrete.
4. The building was kept cool in the summer _____ of its smart ventilation system.
5. ____ the building's foundations weren't strong, it would collapse/breakdown.
6. The building's windows would not open _____ the automated system was activated.
7. _____ the building was under construction, visitors were not allowed.
8. The building was located _____ the river meets the ocean.
9. The building's unique design caught the attention of architects _____ it was seen.
10. _____ the building's exterior was impressive, its interior was equally well-designed.

Solution Exercise 4

Fill in the blanks with the appropriate subordinating conjunctions:

As if, wherever, If, because, While, When, unless, where, Although, after

1. After: The building construction was started **after** the architect's design was finalized.
2. Although: **Although** the building was modern, it retained elements of classical architecture.
3. As if: The building's facade was designed to look **as if** it were made of stone, though it was actually concrete.
4. Because: The building was kept cool in the summer **because** of its smart ventilation system.
5. If: **If** the building's foundations weren't strong, it would collapse.
6. Unless: The building's windows would not open **unless** the automated system was activated.
7. When: **When** the building was under construction, visitors were not allowed.
8. Where: The building was located **where** the river meets the ocean.
9. Wherever: The building's unique design caught the attention of architects **wherever** it was seen.
10. While: **While** the building's exterior was impressive, its interior was equally well-designed.

Exercise 5

Fill in the blanks with the appropriate subordinating conjunctions:

As... As, Not only... but also, The... The, Whether... Or, Just as... So, Either... Or, Just as , Neither... Nor, Both... And, No sooner ... than

1. _____ the interior ____ the exterior of the building were carefully designed.
2. _____ the marble ____ the granite will be used for the flooring.
3. _____ the towers ____ the buildings were damaged in the storm.
4. _____ was the building structurally sound, _____ it was aesthetically pleasing.
5. _____ the building gets approval ____ not is still uncertain.
6. The building was ____ tall ____ it was wide.
7. _____ did they leave _____ the building's lights turned off.
8. _____ the sun rose, the building's silhouette became visible.
9. ___ more windows the building had, ___ more light it received.

Solution Exercise 5

Fill in the blanks with the appropriate subordinating conjunctions:

As... As, Not only... but also, The... The, Whether... Or, Just as... So, Either... Or, Just as , Neither... Nor, Both... And, No sooner ... than

1. Both... and: **Both** the interior **and** the exterior of the building were carefully designed.
2. Either... or: **Either** the marble **or** the granite will be used for the flooring.
3. Neither... nor: **Neither** the towers **nor** the buildings were damaged in the storm.
4. Not only... but also: **Not only** was the building structurally sound, **but also** it was aesthetically pleasing.
5. Whether... or: **Whether** the building gets approval **or** not is still uncertain.
6. As... as: The building was **as** tall **as** it was wide.
7. No sooner... than: **No sooner** did they leave **than** the building's lights turned off.
8. Just as... so: **Just as** the sun rose, the building's silhouette became visible.
9. The... the: **The** more windows the building had, **the** more light it received.

Thank you!

Do you have any questions?