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## Prepositions - Overview

### Introduction

1) A preposition is usually a short word used to link nouns, pronouns, or phrases to other words within a sentence.

*If I'm not mistaken, her birthday is **in** May.*

2) Prepositions do not change their form.

*I want (What?) **to** go (Where?) **to** the movies. = I had a desire **to** go **to** the movies.*

Prepositions can consist of one, two, or more words.

*Josh went **to** the club **instead of** studying for his exams.*

*There was a huge traffic jam **in front of** us.*

Prepositions can be divided into the following categories:

a) prepositions of place state the position or location of one thing with another.

*Kate works **at** Starbucks.*

b) prepositions of time denote specific time periods.

*We usually go to our relatives **at** Christmas.*

c) prepositions of direction or motion indicate movement from one place to the other.

*There's a great pub **across** the street.*

d) prepositions of manner express the manner in which something is done.

*You can't achieve success **by** doing nothing.*

e) prepositions of cause, purpose, and reason indicate why, what for, or because of what something happens.

*She couldn't attend the meeting **due to** some family issues.*

### Short Story Dialogue

– What do you do **for** fun?

– I usually hang out **with** my friends. Sometimes we go **to** the movies together.

Sometimes we throw parties **at** someone's place. And you?

– That sounds cool! Well, I moved **to** this state **in** May so I haven't really made new friends yet. All my friends are back home.

– Why don't you come **over**? I think you'll like my friends and they'll like you!

– Oh, that would be great!

## Independent Practice - Prepositions - Overview

### 1) Underline prepositions in the following text.

He pointed his finger in friendly jest and went over to the parapet, laughing to himself. Stephen Dedalus stepped up, followed him wearily halfway and sat down on the edge of the gunrest, watching him still as he propped his mirror on the parapet, dipped the brush in the bowl and lathered cheeks and neck.

...

Stephen stood up and went over to the parapet. Leaning on it he looked down on the water and on the mailboat clearing the harbourmouth of Kingstown. [Ulysses by James Joyce]

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## Independent Practice: Answers - Prepositions - Overview

### 1) Underline prepositions in the following text.

He pointed his finger in friendly jest and went over to the parapet, laughing to himself.  
Stephen Dedalus stepped up, followed him wearily halfway and sat down on the edge of the  
gunrest, watching him still as he propped his mirror on the parapet, dipped the brush in the  
bowl and lathered cheeks and neck.

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Stephen stood up and went over to the parapet. Leaning on it he looked down on the water  
and on the mailboat clearing the harbour mouth of Kingstown. [Ulysses by James Joyce]

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## Prepositions of Time

### Introduction

1) A preposition is usually a short word used to link nouns, pronouns, or phrases to other words within a sentence.

*If I'm not mistaken, her birthday is **in** May.*

2) There are many types of prepositions. Among them there are prepositions of time. They are used to denote specific time periods. We usually use prepositions of time when we answer the question beginning with 'When?'.

***When** did you move to New York? – I moved there **in** 2007.*

There are three main prepositions of time:

a) *at* denotes precise time.

*I'll pick you up **at** 5.*

*We're all going to be sleeping **at** midnight.*

Note that *at* is also used with such expressions as *at night*, *at weekend*, *at Christmas*, *at the moment*, *at present*, *at the same time*.

*Mr. Ruffus isn't available **at** the moment. May I take a message?*

b) *on* is used for days and dates.

*I'm meeting up with my friends **on** Saturday. And **on** Sunday morning I'm flying to Seattle.*

*Mike has the project presentation **on** 11 November.*

*My family does nothing **on** Christmas day.*

c) *in* denotes longer periods of time like months, years, centuries etc.

*The Parkers are moving to Greece **in** March.*

*The story is set **in** the 80s.*

*Life **in** the Middle Ages wasn't like in a fairy tale. I don't know how people lived **in** the past!*

Note that *in* is also used with such phrases as *in the morning/afternoon/evening*.

*Theo is an owl. He has a hard time getting up **in** the mornings.*

Note that we do not use prepositions before *last/next/every/this*.

~~*I guess we'll see Alice on next Monday.*~~ *I guess we'll see Alice **next** Monday.*

### Short Story Dialogue

– *What does your summer look like?*

– *Well, I have my exams **in** June. I'll be studying **in** the mornings, **in** the afternoons, **in** the evenings...*

– *And **at** night?*

– *No, not **at** night. Nights are for sleeping only! I try not to mess up with my sleep schedule.*

– *That's a smart decision!*

– *Thanks! Then **in** a couple of weeks I'll be backpacking with my friends. We haven't done it **in** such a long time. And **on** 4 July I'll be at my parents'.*

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### Independent Practice - Prepositions of Time

#### 1) Fill in the gaps with *at*, *on*, *in*. Sometimes no preposition is needed.

- a. I don't like working out ..... the mornings. I'm super hungry after sleeping.
- b. Where will you be ..... New Year's Eve?
- c. Carol went to Spain ..... last July. And ..... this time she'll go to Portugal.
- d. My parents were born ..... the 60s.
- e. It rains a lot ..... winter here.
- f. I don't feel like going out ..... Friday evening.
- g. They're getting married ..... 27 August.
- h. Claudia lived in Peru ..... 2015.
- i. I don't want to do anything special ..... my birthday.
- j. Frank usually eats lunch ..... noon.

### Independent Practice: Answers - Prepositions of Time

#### 1) Fill in the gaps with *at, on, in*. Sometimes no preposition is needed.

- a. I don't like working out **in** the mornings. I'm super hungry after sleeping.
- b. Where will you be **on** New Year's Eve?
- c. Carol went to Spain (-) **last** July. And (-) **this** time she'll go to Portugal.
- d. My parents were born **in** the 60s.
- e. It rains a lot **in** winter here.
- f. I don't feel like going out **on** Friday evening.
- g. They're getting married **on** 27 August.
- h. Claudia lived in Peru **in** 2015.
- i. I don't want to do anything special **on** my birthday.
- j. Frank usually eats lunch **at** noon.

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## Prepositions of Place

### Introduction

1) A preposition is usually a short word used to link nouns, pronouns, or phrases to other words within a sentence.

*If I'm not mistaken, her birthday is **in** May.*

2) There are many types of prepositions. Among them there are prepositions of place. They are used to show the position or location of one thing with another. We usually use prepositions of place when we answer the question beginning with 'Where?'

***Where** do you live? – I live **in** New York.*

There are three main prepositions of place:

a) *at* denotes specific point or location of something.

*There's someone standing **at** the door. (specific location)*

*There weren't many people **at** the theatre. It's Monday after all. (specific location)*

*Alex lives **at** number 25 Emerald Street. (address)*

*Ashley works **at** Apple. (company or workplace)*

b) *in* implies that something is located in an enclosed space or within a larger area.

*I think I left my phone **in** the living-room. (the living-room is part of your house)*

*Jake lives **in** the U.S. He lives **in** Texas. (country, state etc.)*

c) *on* implies that something is located on the surface.

*Could you grab my phone? It's **on** the coffee table in the living-room. (the surface of furniture)*

*Jake's sister is **on** the west coast. She absolutely loves the Pacific! (position along a road, river or by the sea, lake etc.)*

*Alex lives **on** the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor. (the floor in the building)*

*Sorry, I'll call you back. I'm **on** the train now. (public transport)*

*My grandparents work **on** a farm. (open fields = the surface of the earth)*

Sometimes you can use both *at* and *in* when you talk about the location, although there is a slight difference in meaning. Study the following examples:

*My siblings are **at** the mall now. (You are stating the location in general. Your siblings could be inside the mall, somewhere at the entrance, or at the parking lot.)*

*My siblings are **in** the mall now. (You are specifying that your siblings are inside the mall building.)*

### Short Story Dialogue

*– Ann, hurry up! The Smiths are waiting for us **at** the restaurant!*

*– I know, I know! I can't find my shoes.*

*– Have you tried looking for them **in** the closet?*

*– Not funny, Nick. I think I might have left them **in** the living-room when I was taking pictures of my new shoes.*

*– There are some shoes **on** the bed. Aren't these yours?*

*– Oh, that's right! And now I need to find my phone – and I'm ready to go!*

*– It's right there **on** your bedside table.*

*– Oh, thanks! Love you!*

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## Independent Practice - Prepositions of Place

### 1) Fill in the gaps with *at, in, on*.

- a. My cat likes sleeping ..... my bed when I'm ..... work.
- b. Peter's relatives live ..... the east coast so he doesn't visit them that often.
- c. Our kids love swimming ..... the lake nearby.
- d. I am currently living ..... Germany and doing my internship here.
- e. Were you ..... the party too? I haven't seen you!
- f. Do you live with your parents or ..... your own place?
- g. Kyle was ..... the dentist's today. He needs some hugs in the evening.
- h. Meredith grew up ..... a farm ..... Idaho.
- i. I left my headphones ..... home. It's going to be a boring ride ..... the bus!
- j. There are so many tasty things ..... the menu!

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## Independent Practice: Answers - Prepositions of Place

### 1) Fill in the gaps with *at*, *in*, *on*.

- a. My cat likes sleeping **on** my bed when I'm **at** work.
- b. Peter's relatives live **on** the east coast so he doesn't visit them that often.
- c. Our kids love swimming **in** the lake nearby.
- d. I am currently living **in** Germany and doing my internship here.
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- j. There are so many tasty things **on** the menu!

## Prepositions of Manner

### Introduction

1) A preposition is usually a short word used to link nouns, pronouns, or phrases to other words within a sentence.

*If I'm not mistaken, her birthday is **in** May.*

2) There are many types of prepositions. Among them there are prepositions of manner. They are used to express the manner in which something is done. We usually use prepositions of manner when we answer the question beginning with 'How?'.

***How** did she lose weight? – She lost weight **by** exercising.*

There are several groups of prepositions of manner:

a) *in*, *with* are used to describe the way in which something is carried out.

*She left the stage **in** tears.*

*She was singing **with** tears in her eyes.*

b) *by* is used to denote either a person or a means of transportation, while *with* denotes an instrument.

*This house was built **by** my grandfather.*

*Helen goes to work **by** bus.*

*You need to cut the cake **with** a knife.*

We can also use *by* + *V-ing*.

*You can't prove them wrong **by** doing nothing.*

c) *at* can be used to describe aggressive behaviour. Compare the following examples:

*He talked **to** his wife. (neutral)*

*He talked **at** his wife. (aggressive behaviour)*

We can also use the phrase *in a friendly way/manner* to describe actions.

*Mrs. Anderson spoke to me **in an extremely polite manner.***

### Short Story Dialogue

– *Alice looks amazing! How did she manage to lose weight?*

– ***By** exercising regularly!*

– *Was there some special diet?*

– *No, not really. For example, I go to work **by** bus and Alice always goes **on** foot. It seems obvious but you really can lose weight **by** walking everywhere.*

– *Maybe I need to change my attitude towards walking. I work out **with** pleasure because I feel like I'm definitely doing something to lose weight. But when it comes to walking somewhere, I'd rather go **by** car.*

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## Independent Practice - Prepositions of Manner

### 1) Fill in the gaps with *in*, *with*, *by*, *at*.

- a. Trying to cut a steak ..... a fork is not the best idea.
- b. I don't like traveling long distances ..... car.
- c. Little Suzy left the room ..... tears after being scolded ..... her parents.
- d. Al was telling her something, but she suddenly snapped ..... him.
- e. Kim suddenly stopped playing and threw the ball ..... Noah.
- f. Mr. Griffit always reacts ..... anger whenever a student makes a mistake.
- g. You can't make friends ..... being grumpy all the time.
- h. This story was written ..... Agatha Christie.
- i. I love Sandra's attitude to everything – she always does things ..... a joyful manner!
- j. You'll actually save time ..... going there ..... foot!

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## Independent Practice: Answers - Prepositions of Manner

### 1) Fill in the gaps with *in*, *with*, *by*, *at*.

- a. Trying to cut a steak **with** a fork is not the best idea.
- b. I don't like traveling long distances **by** car.
- c. Little Suzy left the room **in** tears after being scolded **by** her parents.
- d. Al was telling her something, but she suddenly snapped **at** him.
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- h. This story was written **by** Agatha Christie.
- i. I love Sandra's attitude to everything – she always does things **in** a joyful manner!
- j. You'll actually save time **by** going there **on** foot!

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## Prepositions of Direction or Motion

### Introduction

1) A preposition is usually a short word used to link nouns, pronouns, or phrases to other words within a sentence.

*If I'm not mistaken, her birthday is **in** May.*

2) There are many types of prepositions. Among them there are prepositions of direction or motion. They are used to show movement from one place to the other. We usually use prepositions of direction or motion when we answer the question beginning with 'Where?'.

***Where** are you going? – I'm going **to** the supermarket.*

There are several commonly used prepositions of direction or motion:

a) *to* is used to show movement in a specific direction.

*I'll head off **to** work in a couple of minutes.*

*Kimberly moved **to** Florida a year ago.*

Note that you can also use *towards* in the meaning 'in the direction of'.

*Why are these policemen running **towards** Erick?*

b) *into* is used to show movement into something (enclosed space), while *onto* shows movement on top of something (surface).

*The dog jumped **into** the kennel, while the cat leaped **onto** the roof of the kennel.*

c) *across* is used to show movement from one side to the other side of something.

*You can't walk **across** the street wherever you want.*

d) *over* is used to show an upward and forward direction across something.

*The boys jumped **over** the fence and chased the cat.*

e) *through* is used to show movement within an enclosed space from one point to the other.

*I don't like driving **through** the tunnels. I feel a bit anxious then.*

f) *past* is used to indicate movement near something while you are on your way to another location.

*I waved at Mary but she walked **past** me.*

### Short Story Dialogue

– *Excuse me, Sir, could you tell me how I can get **to** the nearest supermarket?*

– *Surely! You have to go **through** that small park over there. Then turn right and go **past** the cinema. Right on the corner you'll see a huge supermarket sign. Just go **across** the street and there will be the entrance.*

– *Thank you very much!*

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## Independent Practice - Prepositions of Direction or Motion

### 1) Underline the correct preposition.

- a. Sarah's cat always jumps *onto/to* her bed whenever she enters the bedroom.
- b. I usually go *over/through* the park on my way home.
- c. Walk *across/through* the street at the traffic lights.
- d. They walked *into/through* the room and stood frozen.
- e. You are highly motivated, when you are working *past/towards* your goals.
- f. I need to go *to/towards* the library to get some books for my research.
- g. This ferry can take you *across/over* the river.
- h. The dog jumped *through/over* the fence to greet its owner.
- i. Michael usually buys coffee in the morning but this time he was running late so he went *to/past* his favourite coffee place.
- j. The lady carefully stepped from the train *into/onto* the platform.

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## Independent Practice: Answers - Prepositions of Direction or Motion

### 1) Underline the correct preposition.

- a. Sarah's cat always jumps onto/~~to~~ her bed whenever she enters the bedroom.
- b. I usually go ~~over~~/through the park on my way home.
- c. Walk across/~~through~~ the street at the traffic lights.
- d. They walked into/~~through~~ the room and stood frozen.
- e. You are highly motivated, when you are working ~~past~~/towards your goals.
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## Prepositions of Cause, Purpose, and Reason

### Introduction

1) A preposition is usually a short word used to link nouns, pronouns, or phrases to other words within a sentence.

*If I'm not mistaken, her birthday is **in** May.*

2) There are many types of prepositions. Among them there are prepositions of cause, purpose, and reason. They are used to indicate why, what for, or because of what something happens. We usually use these prepositions when we answer the question beginning with 'Why?'.

***Why** don't you eat breakfast? – I don't eat breakfast **to** sleep more in the mornings.*

There are several commonly used prepositions of cause, purpose, and reason:

a) *due to* is used to express the cause of the action.

***Due to** her strict parents, Liz rarely went out. It was difficult for her to make friends. (Her parents were the cause of her not making friends.)*

b) *to* is used to express the purpose of the action. (usually followed by a verb)

*People go to clubs **to** dance and **to** meet new people. (These two things are the purpose of people going to clubs.)*

c) *for* is used to express the reason for the action. (usually followed by a noun/pronoun or a gerund)

*He was taken to the police station **for** driving under the influence. (DUI was the reason he was taken to the police station.)*

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*Because of* is also used to express the reason for something happening.

*I need to go home earlier **because of** my sick cat. (My cat is sick that's why I need to go home earlier.)*

### Short Story Dialogue

– *Why can't you go out with us tonight?*

– *That's all **because of** my parents. They are quite strict and don't want me going out that late at night.*

– *But you aren't going to be alone!*

– *I know, I know. They think that all people go **to** clubs only to get drunk. But I've never done anything inappropriate! There is not reason **for** them being so negative about it.*

– *You're still living with your parents so you can't really do anything about it. We'll go out some other time then, OK?*

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## Independent Practice - Prepositions of Cause, Purpose, and Reason

### 1) Underline the correct preposition.

- a. We would like *for/to* thank you *for/to* your hospitality.
- b. The kid left the room *due to/to* cry in his room.
- c. Dan's mom can't drink milk *because of/to* her allergy.
- d. It's all *because of/to* you!
- e. We're so happy *for/to* have you here!
- f. I always bring sweets *for/to* my little cousins when I'm visiting them.
- g. Their shop was closed down *due to/for* the financial struggles.
- h. Oh, the things we do *for/due to* love!
- i. *Due to/For* the shortage of staff we are working overtime now.
- j. Timothy always makes coffee *because of/for* his wife in the morning.

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## Independent Practice: Answers - Prepositions of Cause, Purpose, and Reason

### 1) Underline the correct preposition.

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- b. The kid left the room due to/to cry in his room.
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## Prepositional Phrases

### Introduction

1) A prepositional phrase is a group of words consisting of a preposition and a noun, pronoun, gerund, or clause.

*She tried to calm down the baby **by singing lullabies**.*

A prepositional phrase always consists of two basic parts at minimum: the preposition and its object.

*I think I'll be **at (preposition) home (noun)**.*

A prepositional phrase is a group of words that can consist of:

a) a preposition and a noun.

*Erick was fired **from McDonald's**.*

b) a preposition and a pronoun.

*He always leaves little presents **for me**.*

c) a preposition and a gerund.

*Carol managed to lose some weight **thanks to exercising**.*

d) a preposition and a clause.

*I need to talk to you **about stuff we need for our trip**.*

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A prepositional phrase can function either as an adjective or an adverb in the sentence.

As an adjective, the prepositional phrase answers the question 'Which one?'

*The boy **with red hair** was taking photos outside.*

**Which one?** *The one **with red hair**.*

As an adverb, the prepositional phrase answers the questions 'How?/When?/Where?'

*Gaby went for a run **at 5 o'clock**.*

**When** *did she go for a run?* **At 5 o'clock.**

### Short Story Dialogue

– *Do you have any plans **for tonight**?*

– *Yeah, I'm going **on a date with David**. I think we're going **to a bar or something**.*

– **With whom?**

– **With David, my colleague**. *He's a really nice guy! He was transferred **from another department about a month ago**, and we have so much **in common**!*

– *Oh, that's amazing! Let's hang out some other time then.*

– *Sure!*

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## Independent Practice - Prepositional Phrases

### 1) Underline the correct preposition.

- a. *In/On* a beautiful Thursday morning I found out that I got expelled *from/to* university.
- b. My grandma Judy grew up *on/in* a farm *on/in* Idaho.
- c. Come *over/onto* here! Look at that cute puppy!
- d. Could you pass me that book? - Which one? - The one *from/with* a yellow cover.
- e. My grandparents live *in/off* a tiny house *in/by* the lake.
- f. Stop beating *above/around* the bush! I can't understand anything.
- g. I always see people jogging *on/through* the park.
- h. There was a huge pile *with/of* books *under/into* the desk.
- i. Jenny can't have guests over at her place *for/because of* the landlord.
- j. Ben got sick *due/by* eating junk food all the time.

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## Independent Practice: Answers - Prepositional Phrases

### 1) Underline the correct preposition.

- a. *In/On* a beautiful Thursday morning I found out that I got expelled *from/to* university.
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