Prepositions

Definition

A preposition is a word that shows the relationship of a noun, pronoun, or noun phrase to other words in a sentence.

Example:

The book was in the bag.

Types of Prepositions and Their Uses:

1. Prepositions of Time:

Preposition	Usage	Example
At	Point of time, festivals, mealtime	We met her at 4 o'clock.
In	Months, years, centuries, periods of day	He was born in 1947.
On	Days, dates, special occasions	He arrived on Monday.
Ву	Latest time for an action	I'll finish my homework by 8 o'clock.
For	Duration of an action	He has lived here for ten years.
Since	Point of time from which action began	He has been sleeping since 4 o'clock.
From – To/Till	Starting and ending time	Rubina lived there from January to December.
Till/Until	Up to a point in time	Wait here until I come back.
Before/After	Earlier or later than something	She gets up before 5 o'clock.

2. Prepositions of Place/Position:

Preposition	Example
At	I am waiting at the bus stop.
In	We live in India.
On	The book is on the table.
Over/Under	The fan is over my head. / I sat under the tree.
Above/Below	His head was above the cliff. / His body was below the cliff.
Behind/In front of	The car is behind the truck. / The garden is in front of the house.
Beside	She sat beside me.
Near	There is a shop near our school.
Between	The ball is between two boxes.
Among	Bees are buzzing among the flowers.
Opposite	There is a school opposite the library.

3. Prepositions Showing Direction:

Preposition	Example
То	She went from Delhi to Lucknow.
Towards	He ran towards the bus.
Into	The cat jumped into the box.
Out of	He took the toy out of the bag.
Off	The vase fell off the table.
Up/Down	The squirrel climbed up the tree. / He walked down the stairs.
Over	The bird flew over the tree.
Through	We passed through a tunnel.

Along	We walked along the river.	
Across	The boat went across the lake.	
Past	Go past the shop.	
Round	We went round the city.	

4. Other Uses of Prepositions:

Preposition	Meaning	Example
Besides	In addition to	There were 10 boys besides 5 girls.
Of	Belonging	One wing of the bird is broken.
With	Accompaniment / Instrument	He came with his brother. / Cut the paper with a knife.
About	Subject or Approximation	Tell me something about yourself.
From	Source	Water comes from the mountains.
For	Purpose or Period	This gift is for you. / They stayed for a week.
Ву	Doer, Means of transport, Expressions	The poem was written by her. / We went by train. / by chance, by mistake, etc.

Points to Remember:

- Prepositions never stand alone; they are always part of a prepositional phrase.
- The object of a preposition is always a noun or pronoun.
- The choice of preposition can change the meaning of a sentence.
- Many prepositions are flexible and can be used in more than one context (time, place, direction, etc.).