**PREPOSITIONS**

1. **Prepositions for Time, Place, and Introducing Objects**

(http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/594/1/)

1. **One point in time**

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| **On** is used with days: | *I will see you on Monday.*  *The week begins on Sunday.* |
| **At** is used with noon, night, midnight, and with the time of day: | *My plane leaves at noon.*  *The movie starts at 6 p.m.* |
| **In** is used with other parts of the day, with months, with years, with seasons: | *He likes to read in the afternoon.*  *The days are long in August.*  *The book was published in 1999.*  *The flowers will bloom in spring.* |

1. **Extended time**

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| To express extended time, English uses the following prepositions: since, for, by, from—to, from-until, during,(with)in | *She has been gone since yesterday.* (She left yesterday and has not returned.)  *I'm going to Paris for two weeks.* (I will spend two weeks there.)  *The movie showed from August to October.* (Beginning in August and ending in October.)  *The decorations were up from spring until fall.* (Beginning in spring and ending in fall.)  *I watch TV during the evening.* (For some period of time in the evening.)  *We must finish the project within a year.* (No longer than a year.) |

1. **Place**

To express notions of place, English uses the following prepositions:

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| to talk about the point itself: **in**   to express something contained: **inside**   to talk about the surface: **on**   to talk about a general vicinity: **at** | *There is a wasp in the room.*  *Put the present inside the box.*  *I left your keys on the table.*  *She was waiting at the corner.* |

1. **Higher than a point**

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| To express notions of an object being higher than a point, English uses the following prepositions: over, above. | *He threw the ball over the roof.*  *Hang that picture above the couch.* |

1. **Lower than a point**

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| To express notions of an object being lower than a point, English uses the following prepositions: **under, underneath, beneath, below.** | *The rabbit burrowed under the ground.*  *The child hid underneath the blanket.*  *We relaxed in the shade beneath the branches.*  *The valley is below sea-level.* |

1. **Close to a point**

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| To express notions of an object being close to a point, English uses the following prepositions: **near, by, next to, between, among, opposite.** | *She lives near the school.*  *There is an ice cream shop by the store.*  *An oak tree grows next to my house*  *The house is between Elm Street and Maple Street.*  *I found my pen lying among the books.*  *The bathroom is opposite that room.* |

1. **To introduce objects of verbs**

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| English uses the following prepositions to introduce objects of the following verbs.  **at, glance, laugh, look, rejoice, smile, stare** | *She glanced at her reflection.*  *(exception with mirror: She glanced in the mirror.)*  *You didn't laugh at his joke.*  *I'm looking at the computer monitor.*  *We rejoiced at his safe rescue.*  *That pretty girl smiled at you.*  *Stop staring at me.* |
| **of**: approve, consist, smell | *I don't approve of his speech.*  *My contribution to the article consists of many pages.*  *He came home smelling of alcohol.* |
| **of** (or **about**): dream, think | *I dream of finishing college in four years.*  *Can you think of a number between one and ten?*  *I am thinking about this problem.* |
| **for**: call, hope, look, wait, watch, wish | *Did someone call for a taxi?*  *He hopes for a raise in salary next year.*  *I'm looking for my keys.*  *We'll wait for her here.*  *You go buy the tickets and I'll watch for the train.*  *If you wish for an "A" in this class, you must work hard.* |

1. **Prepositions of Direction: To, On (to), In (to)**

Prepositions that express movement toward something: to, onto, and into.

To, into, and onto correspond respectively to the prepositions of location at, in, and on.

Each pair can be defined by the same spatial relations of point, line/surface, or area/volume.

(<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/594/02/>)

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| **TO**: *signifies orientation toward a goal* | |
| When the **goal is physical**, such as a destination, "to" implies movement in the direction of the goal.  This image shows earth in a view from space. The Empire State building (New York) is on one side, and the Eiffel Tower (Paris) is on the other. A plane can be seen flying from the Empire State building to the Eiffel Tower.  *We flew from New York* ***to*** *Paris.* (OR)  *We flew* ***to*** *Paris.* | When the **goal is not a physical place**, for instance, an action, "to" marks a verb; it is attached as an infinitive and **expresses purpose**. The preposition may occur alone or in the phrase in order. The two uses can also occur together in a single sentence:  *We flew from New York to Paris* ***to see*** *our father.* |

The other two prepositions of direction are compounds formed by adding "to" to the corresponding prepositions of location. The preposition of location determines the meaning of the preposition of direction.

("To" is part of the directional preposition toward, and the two mean about the same thing.)

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| ON + TO = **onto**: signifies movement toward a surface | IN + TO = **into**: signifies movement toward the interior of a volume |
| *A frog makes a splash as it jumps out of the water onto a lilly pad. The frog jumped* ***onto*** *the lilypad.* | *The milk went* ***into*** *the glass.* |

With many verbs of motion, "on" and "in" have a directional meaning and can be used along with "onto" and "into."

To the extent that these pairs do differ, the compound preposition conveys the completion of an action, while the simple preposition points to the position of the subject as a result of that action. This distinction helps us understand how directional and locational prepositions are related: they stand in the relationship of cause and effect.

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| *The paper went into the garbage can.* | *The crab washed up onto the shore.* |
| Position of subject: *the paper is in the garbage can.* | Position of subject: *the crab is on the shore.* |

1. **"To" with several classes of verbs.**
2. **Verb + to + infinitive**

express willingness, desire, intention, or obligation

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| Willingness: *be willing, consent, refuse*  Desire: *desire, want, wish, like, ask, request, prefer*  Intention: *intend, plan, prepare*  Obligation: *be obligated, have, need* | *I* ***refuse to allow*** *you to intimidate me with your threats.*  *I'd* ***like to ask*** *her how long she's been skiing.*  *I* ***plan to graduate*** *this summer.*  *Henry* ***had to pay*** *his tuition at the Bursar's office.* |

1. **With verbs of communication**

*listen, speak* (but not tell), *relate, appeal* (in the sense of 'plead,' not 'be attractive')

1. **Verbs of movement**

*move, go, transfer, walk/run/swim/ride/drive/ fly, travel*

Except for transfer, all the verbs listed here can take toward as well as to.

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| However, "**to**" suggests movement toward a specific destination, while "**toward**" suggests movement in a general direction, without necessarily arriving at a destination: | *Take me* ***to*** *the airport, please.*  (I actually want to arrive at the airport.)  *Drive* ***toward*** *the city limits and turn north.*  (Drive in the direction of the city limits; turnoff may be before arriving there.)  *The plane was headed* ***toward*** *a storm cloud.*  (It was headed in the direction of a storm cloud; it may not have reached or flown through the cloud.)  *The golf ball rolled* ***toward*** *the hole.* |

1. **Onto**

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| "Onto" can generally be replaced by "on" with verbs of motion. | *The hat went on(to) his head.*  *Dietrich jumped on(to) the mat.*  *Huan fell on(to) the floor.*  *Athena climbed on(to) the back of the truck.* |
| Some verbs of motion express the idea that the **subject causes itself** or some physical object **to be situated** in a certain place. | *He put the socks on his feet.*  *Samir moved the chair on(to) the deck.*  *The crane lowered the roof on(to) the house.*  *The baby threw the pot on(to) the floor.* |
| Of these verbs, some take only "on." Others take both "on" and "onto," with the latter being preferred by some speakers. | *The plane landed on the runway. (not "onto" the runway)*  *Sam hung the decoration on the Christmas tree. (not "onto" the tree)*  *He placed the package on the table. (not "onto" the table)*  *Joanna spilled her Coke on the rug. (not "onto" the rug)* |
| Verbs taking only "on" are rare: "set" may be another one, and so perhaps is "put."  Other verbs taking both prepositions are "raise," "scatter" (when it takes a direct object), "pour," and "add." | *We're adding on a wing at the back of the building.*  *We're adding a porch onto the house.* |

Simple prepositions can combine with verbs, but compound prepositions cannot.

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| Note in "The farmer scattered seed on(to) the fertile ground", the word "on" has its ordinary meaning of a position on a surface, but in this case the surface is vertical rather than horizontal— the side of a building. | *The farmer scattered seed on(to) the fertile ground.* |

There are a number of verb-preposition combinations that are similar to "add on" but have the meaning "of continuing or resuming an action" when used in the imperative mood.

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| Except for "hang," which takes both "on" and "onto," the following verbs all occur only with "on." The meanings of these combinations, some of which are idiomatic, are given in parentheses. Not all of them have the force of a command. | *Hang on / Hang onto the rope ("continue to grasp tightly")*  *Carry on ("resume what you were doing")*  *Cail on ("resume or continue sailing")*  *Dream on ("continue dreaming"; a humorous way of saying "that is an unattainable goal")*  *Lead on ("resume or continue leading us")*  *Rock on ("continue playing rock music")*  *Drive on! (Or, Keep driving toward the city)* |

1. **Into**

With verbs of motion, "into" and "in" are interchangeable except when the preposition is the last word or occurs directly before an adverbial of time, manner, or frequency.

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| In this case, only "in" (or "inside") can be used. | *Spike is lying in his house. (Not into.)*  *The patient went into the doctor's office. The patient went in. (not "into")*  *Our new neighbors moved into the house next door yesterday. ("to take up residence in a new home'")* |
| Where the last word is the time adverbial yesterday, the object of the preposition in can be omitted. | *Our new neighbors moved in yesterday.* |
| In an information question, "into" also can be last word except for an adverbial when its object is questioned by a wh- word: | *Now what kind of trouble has she gotten herself into?*  *Now what sort of trouble is she in?* |

Verbs expressing stationary position take only "on" or "in" with the ordinary meanings of those prepositions.

If a verb allows the object of the preposition to be omitted, the construction may have an idiomatic meaning.

*The cat sat on the mat. / The doctor is in his office. / The doctor is in.* ('available for consultation')

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| "**In(to)**" has two special uses with "**move**." | |
| When "**move in**" is **followed by a purpose clause**, it has the **sense of "approach."**  *The police moved in to rescue the hostages inside the building.*  *The lion moved in for the kill.*  "in" is part of the verb, so "into" cannot be used. We cannot say: "The lion moved into for the kill." | When "**into**" is used **with “move**”, it functions as an ordinary preposition to convey the idea of **moving something from one place to another.**  *We'll move your brother's old bed into your room.*  *A man is jumping into the pool.*  *The man is in the pool.*  *The person is placing groceries into the shopping bag. Boxes, cans, and fruits surround the bag and are being placed inside.*  *The person is placing groceries into the shopping bag.*  *All of the groceries have now been placed inside of the bag.*  *The person has completed putting groceries in the bag.* |

1. **Prepositions of Location: At, In, On**

Prepositions expressing spatial relations are of two kinds: prepositions of location and prepositions of direction. Both kinds may be either positive or negative.

Prepositions of location appear with verbs describing states or conditions, especially be;

prepositions of direction appear with verbs of motion.

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| **Dimensions and Prepositions** | Prepositions differ according to the number of dimensions they refer to. We can group them into three classes using concepts from geometry: point, surface, and area or volume. |
| **Point**  at .... point  at ... point | Prepositions in this group indicate that the noun that follows them is treated as a point in relation to which another object is positioned.  *My car is at the house.*  locates a car in relation to a house, understood as a fixed point.  **Location**  *Tom is waiting for his sister at the bank.*  *Sue spent the whole afternoon at the fair.*  **Destination**  *We arrived at the house.*  *The waiter was at our table immediately.*  **Direction**  *The policeman leaped at the assailant.*  *The dog jumped at my face and really scared me.* |
| **Surface**  on .... surface  on ... surface | Prepositions in this group indicate that **the position of an object** is defined with respect **to a surface** on which it rests.  *There is a new roof on the house.*  treats the house as a surface upon which another object, the roof, is placed. |
| **Area/Volume**  in ... area/volume  in ... area/volume | Prepositions in this group indicate that **an object lies within the boundaries** of an area or within the confines of a volume.  *The house is in Tippecanoe county.*  locates the house within a geographical area.  *There are five room in the house, which has a lovely fireplace in the living room.*  treats the house as a three-dimensional structure that can be divided into smaller volumes, namely, rooms, inside one of which is an object, the fireplace. |

1. **Choosing Between "In" and "On"**

Nouns denoting enclosed spaces, such as a field or a window, take both on and in. The prepositions have their normal meanings with these nouns:

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| **on** is used when the space is considered as a surface: | **in** when the space is presented as an area: |
| *Three players are practicing on the field.* (surface)  *The frost made patterns on the window.* (surface) | *Three cows are grazing in the field.* (area)  *A face appeared in the window.* (area) |
| **on** implies only that the following noun denotes a surface and not necessarily an enclosed area | **in** implies that the field is enclosed |
| The cattle are grazing on the open range.  (not enclosed by a fence) | The sheep are grazing in the pasture.  (enclosed by a fence) |
| Three players are on the basketball court.  (not enclosed) | Two boxers are in the ring. (enclosed by ropes) |

1. **in and on with street**

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| *The children are playing* ***in*** *the street.* | the street is understood as an area enclosed by the sidewalks on either side. |
| *Our house is* ***on*** *Third Street.* | locates the house on either side of Third Street; it doesn't mean that the street is a surface on which the house sits. |

1. An **idiom** meaning that he's poor: *He declared bankruptcy last week, and now he's* ***out on*** *the street.*
2. **Metaphorical** boundaries, such as when field means "academic discipline," **in** is used: *She is a leading researcher* ***in the*** *bioengineering* ***field****.*
3. **In and on with means of transportation**

**in** is used with a car,  **on** with public or commercial means of transportation:

in the car, on the bus, on the plane, on the train, on the ship

Some speakers of English make a further distinction for public modes of transportation,

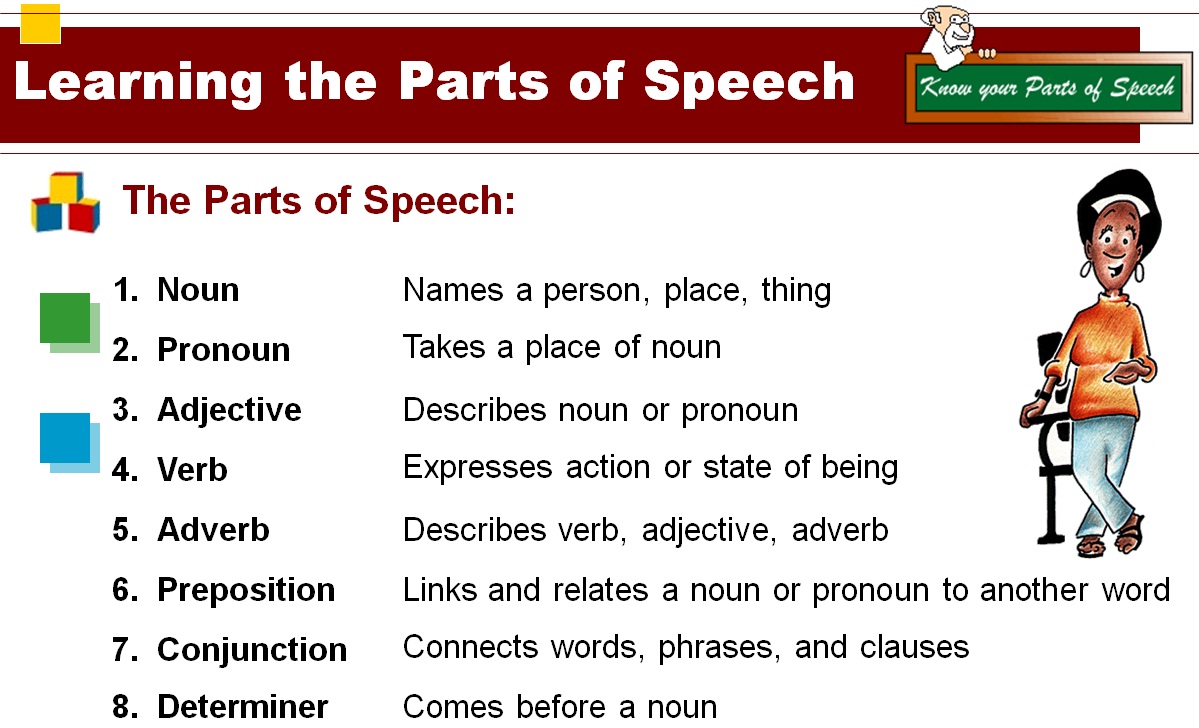
using **in** when the carrier is stationary and **on** when it is in motion.

*My wife stayed in/on the bus while I got out at the rest stop.*

*The passengers sat in/on the plane awaiting takeoff.*

1. **Prepositions of Spatial Relationship**

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| Above | Write your name above the line. |
| Across | Draw a line across the page. |
| Against | She leans against the tree. |
| Ahead of | The girl is ahead of the boy. |
| Along | There is lace along the edge of the cloth. |
| Among | He is among the trees. |
| Around | Draw a circle around the answer. |
| Behind | The boy is behind the girl. |
| Below | Write your name below the line. |
| Beneath | He sat beneath the tree. |
| Beside | The girl is standing beside the boy. |
| Between | She is between two trees. |
| From | He came from the house. |
| In front of | The girl is in front of the boy. |
| Inside | He is inside the house. |
| Near | There is a tree near the house. |
| Off | His hat is off. |
| Out of | He came out of the house. |
| Through | She went through the door. |
| Toward | She is walking toward the house |
| Under | He is hiding under the table |
| Within | Please mark only within the circle. |



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