# 5 Types of Prepositions: An Easy Guide

**Main Takeaways:**

* There are five **types of prepositions** in the English language.
* A **preposition** is a word that helps connect nouns and pronouns with a [verb](https://blog.inkforall.com/linking-verbs) or [adjective](https://blog.inkforall.com/adjectives-starting-with-a) in a sentence.
* The **five types of prepositions** are simple, double, compound, participle, and phrase prepositions.
* **Prepositional phrases** contain a **preposition** plus a noun or pronoun.

There are five **types of prepositions**. They are **simple**, **double**, **compound**, **participle**, and **phrase prepositions**. A **preposition** is used to show a relationship between the **noun**, p**ronoun**, or **phrases** in a sentence. They are used to connect **people**, **objects**, **time**, and **locations**.

## What is a Preposition?

The definition of a **preposition** is a word or phrase that connects a noun or pronoun to a [verb](https://blog.inkforall.com/verb-tenses) or [adjective](https://blog.inkforall.com/adjectives) in a sentence. They are usually short words, and they normally are found in front of nouns. On rare occasions, **prepositions** can be found in front of **gerund verbs**.

If the subject, noun, and verb are the bricks of sentence, then **prepositions** are the mortar that connects them. They express position, movement, possession, time, and how an action is completed.

## How Many Types of Prepositions are There?

There are **five types of prepositions**:

* **Simple preposition**
* **Double preposition**
* **Compound preposition**
* **Participle preposition**
* **Phrase preposition**

These are spoken and written quite often in English. In fact, many of us use all **types of prepositions** naturally without realizing that they are distinct and have a name.

for, with, on, that, of, to

Common prepositions are also some of the shortest words | [Jane Samoilova](https://www.shutterstock.com/g/VectorTradition) – [Shutterstock.com](https://shutterstock.com/image-vector/articles-prepositions-ampersands-seamless-pattern-vector-1303959070) [License](https://www.shutterstock.com/license)

## What are the Most Common Prepositions?

The Top 10 most **common prepositions**in the English language are: of, with, at, from, into, during, including, until, against. These represent the most frequently used **prepositions**. They are also called “simple prepositions.”

## What is a Simple Type of Preposition?

**Simple prepositions** are the short words used to show the relationship between nouns, pronouns, or to join parts of a clause or sentence.

### List of Simple Prepositions

Here are some of the most common, or **simple prepositions**:

aboard  
about  
above  
across  
after  
against  
along  
alongside  
amid  
among  
around  
at  
before  
behind  
below  
beneath  
beside  
besides  
between  
beyond  
but  
by  
concerning

considering  
despite  
down  
during  
except  
excepting  
for  
from  
in  
inside  
into  
like  
near  
of  
off  
on  
onto  
opposite  
out  
outside  
over  
past  
regarding

round  
save  
since  
through  
throughout  
till  
to  
toward  
under  
underneath  
until  
unto  
up  
upon  
via  
with  
within  
without

### Examples of Simple Prepositions Used in Sentences

The dog jumped out while the **car** was moving.

**Car** is the object of the preposition out.

Dorothy came upon the **Tin Man**.

Upon is the preposition. **Tin Man** is the object.

She came home without her **homework**.

**Homework** is the object and the preposition is without.

## What are Prepositions of Place?

Writers use this **type of preposition** to describe where something is located. There are four **Prepositions of Place**. “At” describes a specific point in space. “In” describes an enclosed space. “On” describes an object’s relationship to a surface. “By” describes an object’s proximity to something else.

Many common prepositions are also “Prepositions of Place”. These are used to indicate a noun’s location.

### Prepositions of Place Examples

“At”

Meet me at the library.

“In”

[example]I’m trapped in the elevator!

“On”

Is that a cat sleeping on your car?

“By”

I’ve always wanted to try that cafe by the train station.

## Prepositions of Direction

If you ask “Where?”, this type of preposition is usually part of the answer. **Prepositions of Direction** let you know where something is going. They indicate which direction something is moving. There are dozens of examples, but the most common examples of **Prepositions of Direction** are:

above, across, along, among, around, at, behind, below, beside, over, through, toward, up, down, between, by, inside, in, near, past, under

“Without” is an example of a preposition of direction, a common preposition, and a simple preposition | [QuickMeme](http://www.quickmeme.com/meme/5431" \t "_blank) – [Creative Commons License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/)

## What is a Double Preposition?

Easily form a **Double Prepositions** by joining two **simple preposition**s.

### Examples of Double Prepositions in Sentences

The dog jumped out of the moving **car**.

The child hid inside of the **cabinet**.

## What is a Compound Preposition?

**Double prepositions** and **compound prepositions** are very similar. Both are two-word phrases. The **double preposition** is formed through the conjunction of two **simple prepositions**. Whereas the **compound preposition** is formed through the conjunction of a non-prepositional word and a **simple preposition**.

Note: **Compound prepositions** can sound dated or stuffy. For readability’s sake consider attempting to simplify the phrase.

I use [INK](http://bit.ly/2n9v6e5) which is a web content optimization editor. [It identifies wordy or complex sentences](http://bit.ly/2n9v6e5) and suggests that I edit to make my articles easily digestible.

At that point in time I didn’t know the answer.

This sentence can be simplified to:

Then, I didn’t know the answer.

or

I didn’t know the answer.

### The Most Common Compound Prepositions

according to  
ahead of  
along with  
alongside of  
apart from  
around about  
as against  
as between  
as compared with  
as compared to  
as for  
at that point in time  
at this point in time  
at the point of  
at the time of  
because of  
by force of  
by means of  
by reason of  
by virtue of  
by way of  
due to  
during the course of  
except for  
for fear of  
for lack of  
for the purpose of  
for the reason that  
for the sake of  
from above  
from among  
from behind  
from beneath  
from between  
from the point of view of  
in accordance with  
in a manner similar to  
in care of  
in case of  
in close connection with  
in common with  
in comparison to  
in compliance with  
in connection with  
on account of  
on behalf of  
on the basis of  
on the part of  
on the point of  
on top of  
out of  
outside of  
owing to  
previous to  
prior to  
pursuant to  
regardless of  
relating to  
relative to  
short of  
similar to

subsequent to  
under cover of  
what with  
with a view to  
with regard to  
with reference to  
with respect to  
with the intention of  
in consequence of  
in consideration of  
in contrast to  
in default of  
in deference to  
in exchange for  
in excess of  
in favor of  
in front of  
in lieu of  
in opposition to  
in order to  
in place of  
in preference to  
in receipt of  
in regard to  
in relation to  
in search of  
in spite of  
in terms of  
in the course of  
in the event of  
in the face of  
in the immediate vicinity of  
in the nature of  
independently of  
inside of  
instead of  
on account of  
on behalf of  
on the basis of  
on the part of  
on the point of  
on top of  
out of  
outside of  
owing to  
previous to  
prior to  
pursuant to  
regardless of  
relating to  
relative to  
short of  
similar to  
subsequent to  
under cover of  
what with  
with a view to  
with regard to  
with reference to  
with respect to  
with the intention of

## Participle Prepositions

**Participle prepositions** have endings [such as](https://blog.inkforall.com/comma-before-such-as) -ed and -ing.

assuming, barring, considering, during, given, notwithstanding, provided,  regarding, and respected.

### Prepositional Phrase Example Sentences

The baby cries during the day and sometimes at night.

All the children were in the classroom including the teacher.

Considering she was sick, she still put up her best times.

“Sing along” is an example of a command using a Preposition of Direction | The Bazillions

## How do you Identify a Prepositional Phrase?

A **prepositional phrase** is a group of words that doesn’t contain a verb or a subject. It functions as a unified part of speech. A **prepositional phrase** normally has a **simple preposition** and a noun or a **simple preposition** and a pronoun.

Think of **prepositional phrases** as making a hamburger. You must have meat (or a protein) and bread. A **simple preposition** and the object of the **preposition** are the basics of a **prepositional phrase**.

You can jazz up your hamburger by adding cheese, grilled onions, mustard, tomatoes, etc. The same can be done for **prepositional phrases**. Add adverbs and adjectives to make your sentence more enjoyable to read.

### Prepositional Phrase Examples

[Prepositional phrase](https://blog.inkforall.com/prepositional-phrase)[s](https://blog.inkforall.com/prepositional-phrase) contain a **preposition** followed by an article followed by a noun.

The hamburger with cheese is yours.

Let’s spice up this sentence.

The hamburger with ooey-gooey cheese is yours.

I danced on the stage.

Next, we add more details.

I danced on the concert stage.

The puppy ran through the grass.

Adjectives make the sentence more enticing to read.

The puppy ran through the lush green grass.

Of the types of prepositions, I think simple prepositions are the easiest.

Adding a number adjective makes the sentence for informative.

Of the five types of prepositions, I think simple prepositions are the easiest.