# **Prepositions**

**Definition:** Prepositions are words that indicate location and time, and they almost always come in phrases.





The puppy runs to the food bowl.



The tallest puppy is in the middle.

# PREPOSITIONAL PHRASES

A prepositional phrase consists of a preposition plus a noun. Sometimes modifiers of the noun come in between, such as adjectives and articles.

# **Preposition + Optional Modifiers + Noun**

<u>In the spring,</u> I always vow to plant tomatoes but end up buying them <u>at the store.</u> Prep. Noun

#### **COMMON PREPOSITIONS**

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About	Between	In spite of	Round
Above	Beyond	Including	Since
According to	Ву	Inside	Through
Across	By means of	Instead of	Throughout
After	Concerning	Into	То
Against	Despite	Like	Toward
Along (with)	Down	Near	Under
Among	During	Next	Underneath
Apart from	Except (for)	Of	Unlike
Around	Excepting	Off	Until
As (for)	For	On	Up (to)
At	From	On top of	Upon
Because of	In	Onto	With
Before	In addition to	Out (of)	Within
Behind	In back of	Outside	Without
Below	In case of	Over	
Beneath	In front of	Past	
Beside	In place of	Regarding	

### PREPOSITIONS OF TIME

At designates specific times.

The train is due at 12:15 p.m.

On designates days and dates.

My brother is coming on Monday.

We're having a party on the Fourth of July.

In designates nonspecific times during a day, a month, a season, or a year.

She likes to jog in the morning.

It's too cold in winter to run outside.

For designates measuring time (seconds, minutes, hours, days, months, years).

He held his breath for two minutes.

The British and Irish have been quarreling for seven centuries.

**Since** is used with a specific date or time.

He's worked here since 1970.

She's been sitting in the waiting room since two-thirty.

## PREPOSITIONS OF PLACE

At is used for specific addresses.

Neville Billingsworth lives at 55 Boretz Road in Durham.

**On** is used to designate names of streets, avenues, and lanes.

His house is on Boretz Road.

**In** is used for the names of land-areas (towns, counties, states, countries, and continents).

He lives in Durham. Durham is in Windham County.

Note: With downstairs, downtown, inside, outside, upstairs, and uptown we use no preposition.

## PREPOSITIONS OF MOVEMENT

**To** is used to express movement toward a place.

They were driving to work together.

She's going to the dentist's office this morning.

**Toward** and **towards** are also helpful prepositions to express movement. These are interchangeable, though *toward* is more common in the United States.

We're moving toward the light.

This is a big step towards the project's completion.