Prepositions

Student Name:

Instructor:

Date:

Course:

# About This DLA

## Important Note

All the activities (3) in the DLA must be completed in their entirety before receiving credit for completion. Students are welcome to meet with a tutor if they need help, but please be aware that students might need a second appointment for review and signature in that case. If your instructor wants evidence of this completed DLA, return this form to him or her with the tutor’s signature included.

## Learning Outcomes

Through computer and other independent work, this activity will familiarize you with prepositions and help you create sentences with accurate use of prepositions.

## Activities (approximately 1 hour)

Read the information, complete the activities that follow, and be prepared to discuss your answers when you meet with a tutor.

# Understanding Prepositions

A preposition links nouns, pronouns and phrases to other words in a sentence. It usually describes relationships of time, space, or logic between other words in the sentence.

* Class starts **at** noon.
* The cup is **on** the table.
* This book is **about** cycling.

Here are some common prepositions:

**about**

**above**

**across**

**after**

**against**

**along**

**among**

**around**

**at**

**before**

**behind**

**below**

**beneath**

**beside(s)**

**between**

**beyond**

**by**

**despite**

**down**

**during**

**except**

**for**

**from**

**in**

**in front of**

**inside**

**into**

**like**

**near**

**on**

**off**

**onto**

**out**

**outside**

**over**

**past**

**since**

**through**

**to**

**toward**

**under(neath)**

**until**

**up**

**upon**

**up to**

**with**

**within**

**of**

**throughout**

**without**

## Problems with Prepositions

Non-native speakers of English sometimes use the incorrect preposition in a sentence.

| **Incorrect** | **Correct** |
| --- | --- |
| I went to Paris **~~on~~** July. | I went to Paris **in** July. |
| We flew to Rome **~~on~~** December. | We flew to Rome **on** December 25th. |
| We’ve been waiting **~~since~~** a long time. | We’ve been waiting **for** a long time. |

# Which Preposition Should You Use?

In order to help you understand which prepositions you should use, let’s look at the following:

| **Prepositions of Time** | **Meaning** | **Examples** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| in | -month/season/year  -morning/evening/afternoon  -period of time | I visited Italy **in June**, **in fall**, **in 2010**.  **In the morning**, we went to the dentist.  She hasn’t seen me **in six years**. |
| on | -specific days  -days of the week | Lincoln was born **on February 12**, 1809.  The Louvre doesn’t open **on Mondays**. |
| at | -night  -exact time | Raccoons come out **at night**.  I’ll meet you **at 6:30 p.m.** |
| since | -from a particular time until a later time or now (when) | You have been studying **since** **9:00 a.m.**  We haven’t gone on vacation **since 2008**! |
| for | -amount of time (how long) | I’ve been studying English **for three years**. |
| before | -earlier than something else | I have to get up **before dawn**. |
| after | -later than something else | You can stop by the office **after 2:00**. |
| from | -when something starts | The museum is open **from 9:00** to 4:00. |
| to | -until a particular time/event  -in telling time, before the hour | It’s only 3 days **to Christmas**!  It’s twenty **to 6:00**. |
| until | -up to that time | They waited **until noon** for me. |
| by | -no later than this time; before | She needs that report **by the end of the day**. |

| **Prepositions of Place** | **Meaning** | **Examples** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| in | -inside or within a place, including cities and countries | There are 30 computers **in the lab**.  What do you have **in your hand**?  Canada is **in North America**.  He’s **in the bathroom**. |
| at | -exact position/particular place  -events  -place where you do typical things (study, work, etc.) | She told us to meet her **at the entrance**.  They’re **at Dave’s party** right now.  We met **at school**. |
| on | -attached  -in a position above something else and touching it  -left, right  -television, radio, internet | The clock is **on the wall**.  The spoon is **on the table**.  The restaurant is **on the fourth floor**.  The bank is **on the right**.  I saw my neighbor **on T.V.** last night. |
| by/next to/  beside/near | -not far away in distance | The post office is **by/next to/beside/near the park**. |
| between | -in the space which separates two places, people or objects | Carl is sitting **between John and Lee**. |
| behind | -at the back | He was hiding **behind the door** for three minutes. |
| in front of | -ahead or further forward than something else | Please pass your paper to the student **in front of you**. |
| under | -lower than or covered by something else | The dog is **under the table**.  The kitten is **under the pile of clean clothes**. |
| below | -lower than something else | The plane is flying **below the clouds**. |
| over | -above something else  -more than  -from one side to the other | The goat jumped **over the fence**.  Last year, I earned **over $40,000**.  I walked **over the bridge**. |
| above | -higher than something else | Her skirt was **above the knee**. |
| across | -from one side to the other of something with clear limits / getting to the other side | I sailed **across the Atlantic Ocean**. |
| through | -from one end of something to the other | You can take a shortcut **through the park**. |
| to | -in the direction of | Jamie walks **to school** every day. |
| into | -toward the inside of something | She went **into the kitchen**. |
| toward(s) | -in the direction of | He walked **towards me**. |
| onto | -movement into or on a place | I stepped **onto the platform** to wait for the train. |
| from | -shows the place where someone or something starts | I just came **from the United Kingdom**. |

## Other Prepositions

| **Other Prepositions** | **Meaning** | **Examples** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| from | -shows the origin of something  -shows change in someone or something’s state  -shows the material that something is made of | My friend is **from Italy**.  The ice cube went **from solid to liquid**.  This oil is **made from the best olives**. |
| of | -shows belonging or origin  -shows the material something is made of  -used after words or phrases expressing amount, number or particular unit | He is a very good friend **of mine**.  My dress is **made of silk**.  I bought **a pound of almonds**. |
| by | -shows the person or thing that does something | This novel was written **by Oscar Wilde**. |
| on | -entering public transportation | She got **on the train**. |
| in | -entering a car or taxi | We got **in the car**. |
| off | -leaving public transportation | She got **off the train**. |
| out of | -leaving a car or taxi | I stepped **out of the taxi** very carefully. |
| by | -traveling (not walking or horse riding) | They went to the museum **by train**. |
| at | -age | **At age 17**, Mary left her country. |
| about | -subject, connected with | This book is **about World War II**. |
| with | -to share or exchange things  -to do something with another person  -used for saying what possession, qualities, or features one has | She shares her food **with her family.**  He went to lunch **with his friend**.  I was questioned by a woman **with red hair**. |
| throughout | -in or into every part of something  -during the whole period of time of something | They export their products to markets **throughout the world**.  The museum is open daily **throughout the year**. |

# Verbs and Prepositions

Here are some verbs and prepositions that go together:

**apologize for**

**ask about**

**ask for**

**believe in**

**belong to**

**care for**

**find out**

**give to**

**grow up**

**listen to**

**look at**

**look for**

**look forward to**

**look up**

**make up**

**pay for**

**prepare for**

**study for**

**take care of**

**talk about**

**talk to**

**think about**

**work for**

**worry about**

# Nouns and Prepositions

Here are some nouns and prepositions that go together:

**approval of**

**concern for**

**confusion about**

**desire for**

**hatred of**

**hope for**

**interest in**

**love of**

**need for**

**reason for**

**respect for**

**understanding of**

# Adjectives and Prepositions

Here are some adjectives and prepositions that go together:

**afraid of**

**angry at**

**capable of**

**familiar with**

**fond of**

**happy about**

**interested in**

**jealous of**

**made of**

**married to**

**proud of**

**similar to**

**sorry for**

**sure of**

**tired of**

**worried about**

# Expressions with Several Possible Prepositions

Sometimes, a word can go with more than one type of preposition, depending on the context. Here are a few examples:

| **Agree** | **Live** | **Argue** | **Correspond** | **Differ** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **to** a proposal | **at** an address | **about** a matter | **to** a thing | **from** an unlike thing |
| **with** a person | **in** a house/city | **with** a person | **with** a person | **with** a person |
| **on** a price | **on** a street | **for/against** a proposition |  |  |
| **in** principle | **with** other people |  |  |  |

# Activities

Check off each box once you have completed the activity.

## 1. Prepositions Review

Review the information on this sheet. Then, answer the following question.

| Write the answer. |
| --- |
| What is a preposition? |
|  |
|  |

## 2. Online Quiz

Go to http://tinyurl.com/PrepositionsDLAQuiz and take the [Prepositions DLA Quiz](http://tinyurl.com/PrepositionsDLAQuiz). You must score at least 80% on the exercises before seeing a tutor. After you complete the task, **PLEASE ASK A LAB TUTOR OR FRONT DESK ATTENDANT TO PRINT THE PAGE THAT HAS YOUR SCORE. DO NOT EXIT THE PROGRAM UNTIL THIS PAGE HAS BEEN PRINTED (FREE OF CHARGE).** If you have any other questions, do not hesitate to ask a lab tutor.

## Choose 3a or 3b Below

## 3a Review Your Own Writing

Collect some of your graded work. Find FOUR different sentences that have errors with prepositions. Write them down below, and then write the corrected sentence with the appropriate preposition below the original sentence. Remember to give your reason.

* ExàOriginal sentence: The package came on 4:30 p.m.
* Corrected sentence: The package came at 4:30 p.m. (Reason: use at for exact time)

| Write your answers. |
| --- |
| 1a. Original Sentence |
| 1b. Corrected Sentence |
| 2a. Original Sentence |
| 2b. Corrected Sentence |
| 3a. Original Sentence |
| 3b. Corrected Sentence |
| 4a. Original Sentence |
| 4b. Corrected Sentence |

**If you do not have your own essay to work with, please complete the supplemental activity below (3b).**

## 3b. Write Sentences with Prepositions

Make sentences using the following prepositions correctly.

| Write your answer. |
| --- |
| in |
| on |
| at |
| to |
| of |
| through |

## 4. Review the DLA

Go to https://mtsac2.mywconline.com and use the [Mt. SAC Writing Center Appointment System](https://mtsac2.mywconline.com/) to make a DLA appointment, or sign-up to see a tutor on the “**Walk-in**” list in the Writing Center. During your session with a tutor, explain your work to demonstrate your understanding of prepositions. Refer to your own graded writing (or the completed activity) and explain to the tutor strategies that you used to create sentences with accurate prepositions.

Student’s Signature:

Tutor’s Signature

Date:

Date:

If you are an individual with a disability and need a greater level of accessibility for any document in The Writing Center or on The Writing Center’s website, please contact the Mt. SAC Accessible Resource Centers for Students, [access@mtsac.edu](mailto:access@mtsac.edu), (909) 274-4290.

Revised 04/12/2022