

# The Writing Center

## DLA: Prepositions



This DLA is a writable PDF form. You can enter your answers directly into this document.

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Student Name:

### Important Note

To get completion credit for this DLA, make sure you complete all the required activities. If you'd like help while working on a specific DLA, you can meet with a specialist at the Writing Center. Keep in mind that you might need to schedule a second appointment to review your work, check your understanding, and get your completion credit. You can only review **ONE** DLA per appointment. (Check the last section of this DLA for information on making your appointment and receiving completion credit for your work).

### 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   | behind    | except      | off     | under(neath) |
| above   | below     | for         | onto    | until        |
| across  | beneath   | from        | out     | up           |
| after   | beside(s) | in          | outside | upon         |
| against | between   | in front of | over    | up to        |
| along   | beyond    | inside      | past    | with         |
| among   | by        | into        | since   | within       |
| around  | despite   | like        | through | of           |
| at      | down      | near        | to      | throughout   |
| before  | during    | on          | toward  | without      |

## Problems with Prepositions

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

| Incorrect                                    | Correct   |
|--|---|
| I went to Paris <b>on</b> July.              | I went to Paris <b>in</b> July.                       |
| We flew to Rome <b>on</b> December.          | We flew to Rome <b>on</b> December 25 <sup>th</sup> . |
| We've been waiting <b>since</b> a long time. | We've been waiting <b>for</b> 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<br>-morning/evening/afternoon<br>-period of time | I visited Italy <b>in June</b> , <b>in fall</b> , <b>in 2010</b> .<br><b>In the morning</b> , we went to the dentist.<br>She hasn't seen me <b>in six years</b> . |
| on                   | -specific days<br>-days of the week                                 | Lincoln was born <b>on February 12</b> , 1809.<br>The Louvre doesn't open <b>on Mondays</b> .   |
| at                   | -night<br>-exact time   | Raccoons come out <b>at night</b> .<br>I'll meet you <b>at 6:30 p.m.</b>  |
| since                | -from a particular time until a later time or now (when)            | You have been studying <b>since 9:00 a.m.</b><br>We haven't gone on vacation <b>since 2008!</b>   |
| for                  | -amount of time (how long)  | I've been studying English <b>for three years</b> .   |
| before               | -earlier than something else  | I have to get up <b>before dawn</b> .   |
| after                | -later than something else  | You can stop by the office <b>after 2:00</b> .  |
| from                 | -when something starts  | The museum is open <b>from 9:00</b> to 4:00.  |
| to                   | -until a particular time/event<br>-in telling time, before the hour | It's only 3 days <b>to Christmas!</b><br>It's twenty <b>to 6:00</b> .   |
| until                | -up to that time  | They waited <b>until noon</b> for me.   |
| by                   | -no later than this time; before                                    | She needs that report <b>by the end of the day</b> .  |

| Prepositions of Place      | Meaning  | Examples   |
|----------------------------|--|--|
| in                         | -inside or within a place, including cities and countries  | There are 30 computers <b>in the lab</b> .<br>What do you have <b>in your hand</b> ?<br>Canada is <b>in North America</b> .<br>He's <b>in the bathroom</b> .   |
| at                         | -exact position/particular place<br>-events<br>-place where you do typical things (study, work, etc.)            | She told us to meet her <b>at the entrance</b> .<br>They're <b>at Dave's party</b> right now.<br>We met <b>at school</b> .   |
| on                         | -attached<br>-in a position above something else and touching it<br>-left, right<br>-television, radio, internet | The clock is <b>on the wall</b> .<br>The spoon is <b>on the table</b> .<br>The restaurant is <b>on the fourth floor</b> .<br>The bank is <b>on the right</b> .<br>I saw my neighbor <b>on T.V.</b> last night. |
| by/next to/<br>beside/near | -not far away in distance  | The post office is <b>by/next to/beside/near the park</b> .  |
| between                    | -in the space which separates two places, people or objects  | Carl is sitting <b>between John and Lee</b> .  |
| behind                     | -at the back   | He was hiding <b>behind the door</b> for three minutes.  |

| Prepositions of Place | Meaning  | Examples   |
|-----------------------|--|--|
| in front of           | -ahead or further forward than something else  | Please pass your paper to the student <b>in front of you</b> .   |
| under                 | -lower than or covered by something else   | The dog is <b>under the table</b> .<br>The kitten is <b>under the pile of clean clothes</b> .                              |
| below                 | -lower than something else   | The plane is flying <b>below the clouds</b> .  |
| over                  | -above something else<br>-more than<br>-from one side to the other                     | The goat jumped <b>over the fence</b> .<br>Last year, I earned <b>over \$40,000</b> .<br>I walked <b>over the bridge</b> . |
| above                 | -higher than something else  | Her skirt was <b>above the knee</b> .  |
| across                | -from one side to the other of something with clear limits / getting to the other side | I sailed <b>across the Atlantic Ocean</b> .  |
| through               | -from one end of something to the other  | You can take a shortcut <b>through the park</b> .  |
| to                    | -in the direction of   | Jamie walks <b>to school</b> every day.  |
| into                  | -toward the inside of something  | She went <b>into the kitchen</b> .   |
| toward(s)             | -in the direction of   | He walked <b>towards me</b> .  |
| onto                  | -movement into or on a place   | I stepped <b>onto the platform</b> to wait for the train.  |
| from                  | -shows the place where someone or something starts                                     | I just came <b>from the United Kingdom</b> .   |

## Other Prepositions

| Other Prepositions | Meaning   | Examples  |
|--------------------|---|---|
| from               | -shows the origin of something<br>-shows change in someone or something's state<br>-shows the material that something is made of                    | My friend is <b>from Italy</b> .<br>The ice cube went <b>from solid to liquid</b> .<br>This oil is <b>made from the best olives</b> . |
| of                 | -shows belonging or origin<br>-shows the material something is made of<br>-used after words or phrases expressing amount, number or particular unit | He is a very good friend <b>of mine</b> .<br>My dress is <b>made of silk</b> .<br>I bought <b>a pound of almonds</b> .                |
| by                 | -shows the person or thing that does something  | This novel was written <b>by Oscar Wilde</b> .  |
| on                 | -entering public transportation   | She got <b>on the train</b> .   |
| in                 | -entering a car or taxi   | We got <b>in the car</b> .  |
| off                | -leaving public transportation  | She got <b>off the train</b> .  |
| out of             | -leaving a car or taxi  | I stepped <b>out of the taxi</b> very carefully.  |
| by                 | -traveling (not walking or horse riding)  | They went to the museum <b>by train</b> .   |
| at                 | -age  | <b>At age 17</b> , Mary left her country.   |
| about              | -subject, connected with  | This book is <b>about World War II</b> .  |
| with               |   |   |
| throughout         |   |   |

## Verbs and Prepositions

Here are some verbs and prepositions that go together:

|               |           |                 |              |
|---------------|-----------|-----------------|--------------|
| apologize for | find out  | look forward to | take care of |
| ask about     | give to   | look up         | talk about   |
| ask for       | grow up   | make up         | talk to      |
| believe in    | listen to | pay for         | think about  |
| belong to     | look at   | prepare for     | work for     |
| care for      | look for  | study for       | worry about  |

## Nouns and Prepositions

Here are some nouns and prepositions that go together:

|                 |            |             |                  |
|-----------------|------------|-------------|------------------|
| approval of     | desire for | interest in | reason for       |
| concern for     | hatred of  | love of     | respect for      |
| confusion about | hope for   | need for    | understanding of |

## Adjectives and Prepositions

Here are some adjectives and prepositions that go together:

|               |               |            |               |
|---------------|---------------|------------|---------------|
| afraid of     | fond of       | made of    | sorry for     |
| angry at      | happy about   | married to | sure of       |
| capable of    | interested in | proud of   | tired of      |
| familiar with | jealous of    | similar to | 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.

What is a preposition?

### ☐ 2. Online Quiz

Go to <http://tinyurl.com/prepositionsdlquiz> and take the DLA quiz. You must score at least 75% on the quiz before meeting with a specialist. After you complete the task, please take a screenshot of the page that has your score and show it to your specialist. Do not exit the quiz until you take the screenshot.

## Choose 3a or 3b Below

### ☐ 3a Review Your Own Writing

Collect some of your graded work. Find THREE 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.

- Ex: Original 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*)

1a. Original Sentence

1b. Corrected Sentence

2a. Original Sentence

2b. Corrected Sentence

3a. Original Sentence

3b. 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.

in

on

at

to

of

through

### □ 4. Review the DLA/Receive Completion Credit

1. Go to [EAB Navigate](#) and make an appointment (online or in-person).
2. Attend your session and be prepared to explain your understanding of the information you've learned in the DLA. Consider the main concept you learned and how you might use this in your future assignments/classes.
3. If your professor asks you to provide proof, you can review the "appointment summary report" through EAB Navigate (app or desktop). You will find all Writing Center appointments under "appointment summary reports" (app or desktop). Look for the summary report for your DLA appointment. This is where your writing specialist will indicate the title of your DLA and state whether it is "completed" or "not completed." If it is marked as "not completed," book a follow up appointment to complete.

Note: Appointment summary reports are also sent weekly to your instructor on record. If there is an issue, please contact us at [writingcenter@mtsac.edu](mailto:writingcenter@mtsac.edu) or (909) 274-5325.

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