

The Writing Center

DLA: Prepositions



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

YOU MUST DOWNLOAD AND SAVE THIS FILE TO YOUR COMPUTER.

Do not complete this form in a web browser. You will not be able to save your work.

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 on July.	I went to Paris in July.
We flew to Rome on December.	We flew to Rome on December 25 th .
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.

Prepositions of Place	Meaning	Examples
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		
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/prepositionsdaquiz> 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 or (909) 274-5325.

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