

**Prepositions of Time: *at, on, and in***

**We use *at* to designate specific times.**

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

**We use *on* to designate days and dates.**

My brother is coming on Monday.

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

**We use *in* for 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.

He started the job in 1971.

He's going to quit in August.

**Prepositions of Place: *at, on, and in***

**We use *at* for specific addresses.**

Grammar English lives at 55 Boretz Road in Durham.

**We use *on* to designate names of streets, avenues, etc.**

Her house is on Boretz Road.

**And we use *in* for the names of land-areas (towns, counties, states, countries, and continents).**

She lives in Durham.

Durham is in Windham County.

Windham County is in Connecticut.

**IN**  
(the) bed\*  
the bedroom  
the car  
(the) class\*  
the library\*  
school\*

**AT**  
class\*  
home  
the library\*  
the office  
school\*  
work

**ON**  
the bed\*  
the ceiling  
the floor  
the horse  
the plane  
the train

**Prepositions of Movement: *to*  
and *No Preposition***

**We use *to* in order 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 simply variant spellings of the same word; use whichever sounds better to you.**

We're moving toward the light.

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

**With the words *home, downtown, uptown, inside, outside, downstairs, upstairs*, we use no preposition.**

Grandma went upstairs

Grandpa went home.

They both went outside.

### Prepositions of Time: *for* and *since*

We use *for* when we measure time (seconds, minutes, hours, days, months, years).

He held his breath for seven minutes.

She's lived there for seven years.

The British and Irish have been quarreling for seven centuries.

We use *since* with a specific date or time.

He's worked here since 1970.

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

### Prepositions with Nouns, Adjectives, and Verbs.

Prepositions are sometimes so firmly wedded to other words that they have practically become one word. (In fact, in other languages, such as German, they would have become one word.) This occurs in three categories: nouns, adjectives, and verbs.

approval of	fondness for	need for
awareness of	grasp of	participation in
belief in	hatred of	reason for
concern for	hope for	respect for
confusion about	interest in	success in
desire for	love of	understanding of

afraid of	fond of	proud of
angry at	happy about	similar to
aware of	interested in	sorry for
capable of	jealous of	sure of
careless about	made of	tired of
familiar with	married to	worried about

apologize for	give up	prepare for
ask about	grow up	study for
ask for	look for	talk about
belong to	look forward to	think about
bring up	look up	trust in
care for	make up	work for
find out	pay for	worry about

### Idiomatic Expressions with Prepositions

agree *to* a proposal, *with* a person, *on* a price, *in* principle

argue *about* a matter, *with* a person, *for* or *against* a proposition

compare *to* to show likenesses, *with* to show differences (sometimes similarities)

correspond *to* a thing, *with* a person

differ *from* an unlike thing, *with* a person

live *at* an address, *in* a house or city, *on* a street, *with* other people

### Unnecessary Prepositions

In everyday speech, we fall into some bad habits, using prepositions where they are not necessary. It would be a good idea to eliminate these words altogether, but we must be especially careful not to use them in formal, academic prose.

She met ~~up with~~ the new coach in the hallway.  
The book fell off ~~of~~ the desk.  
He threw the book out ~~of~~ the window.  
She wouldn't let the cat inside ~~of~~ the house. [or use "in"]  
Where did they go ~~to~~?  
Put the lamp in back of the couch. [use "behind" instead]  
Where is your college ~~at~~?

### Prepositions in Parallel Form

When two words or phrases are used in parallel and require the same preposition to be idiomatically correct, the preposition does not have to be used twice.

You can wear that outfit *in* summer and ~~in~~ winter.

The female was both attracted ~~by~~ and distracted by the male's dance.

However, when the idiomatic use of phrases calls for different prepositions, we must be careful not to omit one of them.

The children were *interested in* and *disgusted by* the movie.

It was clear that this player could both *contribute to* and *learn from* every game he played.

He was *fascinated by* and *enamored of* this beguiling woman.

### PREPOSITIONAL PHRASES

Q: I'd rather have wine \_\_\_\_ beer.  
instead than  
instead from  
instead to  
instead of

Q: \_\_\_\_ bad weather, the trip will be postponed to next week.  
In case  
In case of  
In case to  
In case from

Q: \_\_\_\_ my fellow employees, I would like to thank management for all they have done to improve our situation.  
In behalf of  
To behalf of  
On behalf of  
From behalf of

Q: We finally solved our problem \_\_\_\_ a new device created by our research and development department.  
from means of  
by means of  
by means from  
by means to

Q: \_\_\_\_ me, I will be happy to dedicate a few extra hours to the cause.  
As for  
As of

As to  
As from

Q: You will have to remember that, \_\_\_\_\_ John, no one wants to work on this problem.  
apart to  
apart from  
apart  
apart of

Q: How can they be going out?! Jane has nothing \_\_\_\_\_ Peter.  
in common  
in common to  
in common of  
in common with

Q: \_\_\_\_\_ John, they won't finish the project until the end of next week.  
According  
According in  
According from  
According to

Q: I'm all \_\_\_\_\_ helping out the poor when in need.  
in favor of  
in favor to  
in favor for  
in favor from

Q: We will have to postpone our trip \_\_\_\_\_ the bad weather.  
because  
because to  
because of  
because from

Q: Because of the \_\_\_\_\_ interest in our product, we are going to stop production of the 'whamo ring'.  
lack  
lack of  
lack from  
lack in

Q: \_\_\_\_\_ the large number of requests we have received, we are going to extend the sale to the end of the month.  
Due to  
Due of  
Due from  
Due

Q: \_\_\_\_\_ our friendly staff, you'll find our hotel provides everything you could ever desire.  
In addition  
In addition of  
In addition to  
In addition from

Q: She was a fearless woman who acted \_\_\_\_\_ her health.  
without regard to  
without regard for  
without regard  
without regard of

Q: \_\_\_\_\_ your proposal Tom, I'm afraid we won't be able to approve your project.  
With regards  
With regards to  
With regards of  
With regards from

Q: Learning English is sometimes difficult. However, you should remember that communication is \_\_\_\_\_ the most important thing.

- by far
- by far of
- by far to
- by far from

Q: I'm afraid I've charged you too much \_\_\_\_\_. Sorry about that!

- on mistake
- from mistake
- to mistake
- by mistake

Q: You are going to have to work overtime \_\_\_\_\_ your responsibilities at home.

- regardless to
- regardless of
- regardless through
- regardless about

Q: Please don't be angry with me. I didn't break the toy \_\_\_\_\_.

- to purpose
- from purpose
- on purpose
- about purpose