



Prepositions

What are prepositions?

- Prepositions indicate types of relationships in sentences, conveying place and time and adding clarity.

When do prepositions appear?

- We use prepositions when we are clarifying relationships with time.
 - Example: She has an appointment **with** Dr. Jones **in** Morton Hall **during** lunch.
- We also use prepositions to clarify where an object is spatially.
 - Example: Where was the dog?
 - **On** the couch.
 - **Under** the table.
 - **Beside** the bed.
 - **Behind** the door.
 - Leaning **against** the wall.
 - Standing **over** the cat.
- Lastly, there are verbs that need prepositions to aid in their meaning.
 - Example: He is standing **at** the door.
 - Without **at**, we wouldn't understand the sentence: He is standing the door. Well, where is he? Is he at the door, behind the door, in front of the door?

What are commonly used prepositions in English?

- Common prepositions: at, on, in, for, to, of
- Prepositions related to directions: across, behind, above, over, beneath, beside, against
- Prepositions related to time: during, within, since

For more information on prepositions, make an appointment with a [writing tutor](#). Appointments are available in person at the [Student Success Center](#) or online.

Adapted from the University of Louisville Writing Center.