

**Preparatory Task:**

Read the follow image carefully



Complete the following sentences based on your understanding of the image:

1. The cat is sitting \_\_\_\_\_ the dining table.
2. The clock is \_\_\_\_\_ the table.
3. The candle stick is \_\_\_\_\_ the wall.
4. A beautiful bushy flower vase is kept \_\_\_\_\_ the sofa.
5. The fish is swimming \_\_\_\_\_ glass bowl.
6. A tea cup is placed \_\_\_\_\_ the cupboard.
7. The mirror is hanging \_\_\_\_\_ the wall.
8. The pillow is \_\_\_\_\_ the cupboard.
9. The tea jar is \_\_\_\_\_ the sofa.
10. The carpet is \_\_\_\_\_ the stool.

**Prepositions:**

The words you have used in the above blanks are **preposition**.

- A preposition in a sentence shows the relationship between a noun or pronoun and another word in the sentence.
  - Commonly used prepositions are **about, before, by, during, on, under**, etc.
- Prepositions formed from more than one word are called compound prepositions.
  - Commonly used compound prepositions are **according to, in place of, because of, and instead of**.
- A preposition usually indicates the temporal, spatial or logical relationship of its object to the rest of the sentence. Read the following examples:

The cup is **on** the table.

The cup is **beneath** the table.

The cup is leaning **against** the table.

The cup is **beside** the table.

He held the book **over** the table.

She dropped the cup **during** class.

In each of the preceding sentences, a preposition locates the noun "cup" in space or in time.

- List of prepositions  
about, above, across, after, against, along, among, around, at, before, behind, below, beneath, beside, besides, between, beyond, but (when it means except), by, concerning, down, during, except, for, from, in, inside, into, like, near, of, off, on, out, outside, over, past, since, through, to, toward, under, until, up, upon, with, within, and without.

Important points about prepositions

**At** tells where an object or subject is while **to** refers to another location  
 We arrived **at** the station.  
 Mary returned **to** the store.

**For** measures time while **since** refers to a specific period  
 He has been traveling **for** five years.  
 He's been with the company **since** it was established.

Use **in** or **for** with general measurements and **on** or **at** for specific dates  
 Muriel has a meeting **in** the morning.  
 The term paper is due **at** 8:00 AM on the 5th.

Specific days require the preposition **on** or **for** while general measurements call for the proposition **in**  
 The whole family loves to go sailing **in** the springtime.  
 Are you going to the barbecue **on** the 4th of July?

**About, around** and **up to** are used to create approximate quantifications  
 Quantities

**In** refers to geographic regions, continents, counties and towns  
 Regions

**At** refers to specific places and addresses  
 The Andersons live **at** 144 Byrd Lane.

**14 things to keep in mind with prepositions**

When referring to a street or road, **on** is the word of choice  
 There's a bank **on** Birch Street.

Some constructions don't need additional prepositions  
 Off **of** ⇒ Off  
 Meet **up** with ⇒ Meet with  
 Where are they **at**? ⇒ Where are they?

Phrases that require a preposition, include  
 Afraid **of**  
 Love **of**  
 Concern **for**  
 Study **for**  
 Worry **about**

Whenever an infinitive is used, a helping verb is required  
 CORRECT INCORRECT  
 I would like **to** visit Washington D.C. I would like visit Washington D.C.

In some cases, a preposition is unnecessary  
 Go home  
 Go inside/outside  
 Go upstairs/downstairs  
 Go uptown/downtown

When making comparisons, the second preposition can be omitted if it's the same as the first. However, it must be included if the second phrase requires a different preposition  
 We drove **to** the beach and swam **in** the ocean.  
 The climate **in** the United States is much different than Norway.

Although ending a sentence with a preposition is considered incorrect, these constructions are used every day

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**Activity 1**

**Read the following text and underline the prepositions:**

**Quilts - more than mere objects...**

A quilt is simply a cover for a bed. But, to many women, it has a deeper significance. In colonial America, women often sewed and assembled quilts together. These quilting parties were a chance for much-needed socialization. Quilts were pieced together from extra cloth swatches. Each piece reminded the quilter of a loved one. Quilts were often presented as gifts. Instead of money, young newlyweds would receive a quilt. Today, quilts have regained much of the popularity they had years ago. By means of quilts, people today can touch the past.

**Activity 2**

**Identify the prepositional phrases in the following sentences:**

1. Between the two houses is a large white fence.
2. Our class met some visitors from China.
3. Their charming cottage is near Lake Cumberland.
4. Have you eaten anything since breakfast?
5. The cricket match was cancelled on account of heavy rain.
6. The marine engineers were working inside the submarine.
7. Messi, football player of Argentina, always plays according to the rules.

**Activity 3**

**Add a prepositional phrase to each sentence using the preposition specified in parentheses.  
Write your new sentence on the lines below:**

Example:

There is a wood house. (in)

There is a wood house in the woods. \_\_\_\_\_

1. We set up the camp. (after)

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2. Kurunji flower grows. (near)

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3. The hikers took flashlights. (in addition to)

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4. I would love to eat vegetables. (instead of)

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5. Everyone liked the pizza. (expect)

#### Activity 4

##### 4.1 Read the following poem and identify the prepositions:

###### **Underneath the Skin**

Underneath the skin—brown, yellow, black or white,  
In the mind hidden  
From sight,  
Down the body,  
Through the heart,  
Among the people,  
Between the nations,  
Around the world,  
Outside the corner market,  
At the cemetery,  
Within the places of worship,  
Unforgiving festers; hate infests too many of us.

4.2 Write a simple poem using prepositions. You may refer to the preposition word bank given below:

from	towards	by	into
over	on	to	up
beneath	off	because of	down
above	below	outside	inside
underneath	but	between	etc.
besides	with	around	
along among	at	through	

#### URLs for further reference

S. No	Web links (URL)	Purpose
1	<a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jxPmOS8zKHQ">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jxPmOS8zKHQ</a>	Help teacher in teaching prepositions
2	<a href="http://www.teach-this.com/resources/prepositions">http://www.teach-this.com/resources/prepositions</a>	Activities based on prepositions
3	<a href="http://www.dailygrammar.com/archive.html">http://www.dailygrammar.com/archive.html</a>	Examples and Exercises in different complexity levels
4	<a href="http://www.englishpractice.com/common-mistakes/common-errors-prepositions-3/">http://www.englishpractice.com/common-mistakes/common-errors-prepositions-3/</a>	Common mistakes in using prepositions (With explanation)
5	<a href="http://owl.centralia.edu/handouts/preps.pdf">http://owl.centralia.edu/handouts/preps.pdf</a>	Summary