

# జనరల్ ఇంగ్లీష్

## PREPOSITIONS

In most of the cases there are no specific rules on how to use the right preposition, it is largely a matter of convention, a matter of practice.

Look at the following sentences:

- (a) There is a mango on the table.
- (b) He looked at the picture.
- (c) I am fond of ice cream.

★ In sentence (a), the word 'on' shows the relation between the noun 'mango' and another noun 'table'. Whereas in sentence (b), the word 'at' shows the relation between the action expressed by the verb 'looked' and the noun 'picture'. In sentence (c), the word 'of' shows the relation between the attribute expressed by the adjective 'fond' and the noun 'ice cream'. The words 'on', 'at' and 'of' in the above sentences are used as *prepositions*.

Commonly Used Prepositions		
about	besides	off
above	between	on
across	beyond	out
after	by	over
along	down	since
among	during	through
around	for	till
at	from	to
before	in	towards
behind	into	under
below	like	until
beneath	near	up
beside	of	with

*Some Phrase Prepositions (Groups of words used with the force of a single preposition)*

according to	in addition to	in spite of
along with	on behalf of	instead of
away from	in case of	in the event of
because of	in course of	on account of
by means of	in favour of	owing to
by virtue of	in front of	with reference to
for the sake of	in order to	with regard to

Use of Certain Prepositions

1. **At** is used to show

- ★ An exact or a particular time  
*at 10 a.m., at noon, at sunset, at night*
- ★ An exact position or particular place.  
*We'll meet you at the entrance.*  
*I'll give you my number at work/ home/ the office.*

2. **In** is used to indicate

- ★ A period of time  
*In 1999, in winter, in the morning, in the evening etc.*
- ★ A place of work (If it is a building)  
*My father works in a school.*
- ★ Countries, cities etc.  
*She was born in Hyderabad.*  
*He lives in Canada.*

3. **On** is used

- ★ To talk about a specific day  
*Khyati's birthday is on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of April.*
- ★ To indicate position in relation to another subject  
*The book is on the table.*
- ★ To indicate membership  
*She is on the committee.*
- ★ To describe an activity or a state  
*We are on duty / business / holiday / vacation*
- ★ To describe the method of travelling.  
*He goes to college on foot.*

4. **By** is used

- ★ To mean nearness.  
*Come and sit by me.*
- ★ In the passive voice.  
*Bahubali was directed by Rajamouli.*
- ★ To indicate mode of travel.  
*They came by bus / car / train.*

5. **For** is used

- ★ To show the period of time.  
*They have been living here since 2001.*

- ★ To express purpose  
*Let us go for a walk*
- ★ In the expression of helping someone/ something  
*What can I do for you?*
- ★ In support of somebody / something  
*Indians voted for BJP in 2014 elections.*
- ★ Used to show a reason or cause  
*I gave her a watch for her birthday.*
- 6. **Of** is used
  - ★ To show possession or belonging  
*The plays of Shakespeare.*  
*The paintings of Ravi Varma.*
  - ★ After words or phrases expressing amount, number or a particular unit  
*a kilo of grapes ; none of them*
  - ★ To express cause  
*His mother died of TB.*
- 7. **To** is used to indicate
  - ★ The place, person, or thing that someone or something moves toward, or the direction of something  
*I am heading to the entrance of the building.*  
*All of us went to the movie theatre.*
  - ★ A time or a period  
*I work nine to six, Monday to Friday.*  
*It is now 10 to five. (In other words, it is 4:50.)*
- 8. **From** is used to denote a point of time or starting point / distance.  
*I lived in Mahabubnagar from 2002 to 2005.*  
*My college is just two kilometres from my house.*
- 9. **Off** is used to denote distance or movement away from something.  
*She fell off cycle.*
- 10. **Towards** means in the direction of but not necessarily reaching a place.  
*He walked towards the park. (He walked in the direction of the park.)*
- 11. **With** is used
  - ★ To show connection  
*I am friendly with my colleagues.*
  - ★ To indicate tools  
*He cuts the tree with an axe.*

### Some Confusing Preposition Pairs

**Among / Between:** We say that something is between two people, things or groups of things. 'Among', on the other hand, is preferred when somebody or something is in a group.

**e.g.:** *Sohini is between Rishita and Pinky in that picture.*

*I could recognize him among the crowd.*

**Beside / Besides:** 'Beside' means 'next to' but 'Besides' states that something is in addition to something else.

**e.g.:** *My office is located beside the State Bank of India.*

*Besides biscuits, we need some milk.*

**Since / For:** 'Since' is used with point of time (since 1999, since March, since morning, since 10 am, since Monday etc.)

**e.g.:** *They have been living here since 2006.*

★ 'For' is used with period of time (for seven years, for three months, for two hours, for one week, for four months etc.)

*They have been living here for ten years.*

### Words followed by Prepositions

1. Abide by: The students should abide by the rules of the college.
2. Accuse of: They have been accused of robbery.
3. Addicted to: He is addicted to drugs.
4. Agree to: Do you agree to this proposal?
5. Agree with: We all agree with you.
6. Angry with a person: My father is angry with me.
7. Angry at something: He is angry at her behaviour.
8. Apologize to a person for something: You should apologize to your teacher for your nasty comments in the class.
9. Apply to a person for something: Have you applied to the principal for leave?
10. Averse to: I am averse to TV serials.
11. Aware of: One should be aware of one's shortcomings.
12. Believe in: I believe in God.
13. Beware of: Beware of dogs.
14. Boast of: Do not boast of your achievements.
15. Congratulate on: I congratulate you on your success.
16. Depend on: You can always depend on me.
17. Die of: He died of Cholera.
18. Differ with a person: I differ with you on that issue.
19. Differ in opinion: The two sisters differ in their opinion.
20. Differ from: India differs from Pakistan in many respects.
21. Famous for: Sidney Sheldon has become internationally famous for his novels.

22. Fond of: I am fond of pop music.
  23. Good at: Arunima is good at English.
  24. Grateful to: I am extremely grateful to all my teachers for their help.
  25. Guarantee for: There is no guarantee for this watch.
  26. Guilty of: Salman was not found guilty of his crime.
  27. Inferior to: Modern music is often found inferior to that of the past.
  28. Interest in: He has no interest in sports.
  29. Jealous of: Don't be jealous of his fortune.
  30. Laugh at: Don't laugh at the physically handicapped.
  31. Listen to: Children should listen to their parents' advice.
  32. Married to: Namrata is married to Mahesh.
  33. Pleased with: I am very pleased with his behaviour.
  34. Prefer to: I prefer tea to coffee.
  35. Prevent from: We should prevent children from touching fire.
  36. Proud of: She is proud of her beauty.
  37. Rely on: You can rely on me to keep your secret.
  38. Resort to: Politicians resort to gimmicks to attract people.
  39. Response to: I have received an encouraging response to my advertisement.
  40. Responsible for: He held responsibility for the accident.
  41. Responsible to: The ministers must be responsible to the Parliament.
  42. Search for: The search for a complete cure for AIDS goes on.
  43. Similar to: Jr. NTR's acting style is similar to that of his grandfather in many respects.
  44. Succeed in: He is succeeded in achieving a very good rank in the IIT entrance exam.
  45. Suffer from: The boy is suffering from fever.
  46. Superior to: His design is superior to mine.
  47. Surprised at: We are surprised at the news.
  48. Thirst for: The girl has a great thirst for knowledge.
  49. Tolerance for: She has no tolerance for jokes of any kind.
  50. Worthy of: He felt he was not worthy of her.
- ★ A preposition is a word that shows the relation between a noun or pronoun and other part of the sentence.
- ★ The usage of prepositions is perhaps the most difficult aspect for a non native speaker of English. There is a chance of making mistakes, while using them, because of the influence of mother tongue.

PRACTICE TEST

1. Khyati and Ananya shared the chocolates .....themselves  
1) among                      2) with                      3) between                      4) of
2. The twins differ ..... each other ..... that point.  
1) to, of                      2) by, in                      3) with, on                      4) over, of
3. We agree .....you but not .....your proposal  
1) by, of                      2) for, by                      3) to, with                      4) with, to
4. He applied ..... the boss ..... leave.  
1) for, to                      2) to, for                      3) by, with                      4) to, to
5. Usually I go to college .....bike but today I am going ..... foot  
1) by, by                      2) on, on                      3) on, by                      4) by, on
6. Chetan Bhagat has become famous ..... his young adult novels.  
1) to                      2) for                      3) of                      4) by
7. Tina is good .....English but she is not interested ..... studies.  
1) in, in                      2) at, in                      3) in, at                      4) of, for
8. Harbhajan Singh was married .....Geeta Basra.  
1) to                      2) of                      3) for                      4) with
9. The old woman had suffered ..... jaundice for a long time and eventually she died ....it.  
1) with, with                      2) by, from                      3) from, of                      4) of, from
10. You should never depend .....anyone ..... anything  
1) for, for                      2) on, to                      3) to, on                      4) on, for

ANSWERS

1-3; 2-3; 3-4; 4-2; 5-4; 6-2; 7-2; 8-1; 9-3; 10-4.

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