

GRAMMAR – PREPOSITIONS OF PLACE & MOVEMENT

PLACE (where?)	MOVEMENT / DIRECTION / TIME
in – inside (in the ocean)	into – entering (into the atmosphere)
on – on a surface (on the crust)	out of – leaving (out of the volcano)
at – a point (at the centre)	to – direction or destination (to the ocean floor)
above / below – higher / lower	from – source, starting point, or protection (from the sun; protect from)
beneath / under – directly under	from ... to – start → end
between – in the middle of two	towards – in the direction of
around – surrounding	through – from one side to the other
	across – from side to side
	along – following a line or edge
	over – during a period of time (over millions of years)

Exercise 1. Choose the correct preposition or prepositional phrase for each gap.

Example: If you drilled a hole **into** Earth, you would first hit the crust.

- The crust floats _____ the asthenosphere.
- Lava rises _____ mid-oceanic ridges deep _____ the ocean.
- The oldest rocks _____ the lithosphere are over 4 billion years old.
- Living things exist _____ land, _____ the air, and _____ the oceans.
- Air is denser closer _____ Earth because of gravity.
- The stratosphere extends _____ about 12 _____ 50 km above the surface.
- The ISS orbits _____ the thermosphere, _____ 330 and 435 km.
- Charged particles _____ the sun travel _____ the ionosphere.
- The magnetosphere extends _____ Earth like a bubble.
- Plasma can enter _____ rifts _____ the poles during solar storms.

Exercise 2. Complete the story with prepositions.

Fill each gap with one preposition or prepositional phrase.

A Particle's Journey Through Earth's Spheres

Imagine you are a tiny particle. You start your journey (1) _____ the very centre of the Earth, deep (2) _____ the core. You travel slowly (3) _____ the surface (4) _____ the hot mantle. When you arrive (5) _____ the crust, you come (6) _____ a volcano as hot lava.

Rain falls (7) _____ you and breaks you (8) _____ smaller pieces. (9) _____ millions of years, you become part of the soil (10) _____ the pedosphere. A plant grows (11) _____ this soil, and its roots reach deep (12) _____ the ground.

Water carries you (13) _____ a river, (14) _____ hills and valleys, and finally (15) _____ the ocean. You sink (16) _____ the ocean floor. Tectonic plates push you back (17) _____ the Earth, and the cycle begins again.

Exercise 3. Choose the correct preposition: A or B.

- The asthenosphere is **beneath** / **above** the crust.
- Water flows **across** / **between** the surface towards the sea.
- The ozone layer is **on** / **in** the stratosphere.
- Tectonic plates move **along** / **into** the surface of the Earth.
- A satellite in low orbit flies **through** / **around Earth** in about 90 minutes.
- Lava rises **from** / **at** deep inside the Earth to the surface.
- The magnetosphere protects Earth **of** / **from** solar radiation.
- Charged particles travel **through** / **across** the magnetosphere near the poles.

