

PREPOSITION EXERCISES

Draw a circle around the correct preposition in parentheses in the exercises below:

(A) Place or Position or Direction

1. Do you live (at, on) Bay Street (in, on) Newport?
2. I hung the picture (above, on) the fireplace.
3. She walked (in, into) the kitchen and put her packages (on, over) the table.
4. Is Jane (at, in) home? No, she is (on, at) the library.
5. Mary is sitting (in, on) the sofa (at, in) the living room.
6. Michigan is situated (in, between) Lake Michigan and Lake Huron.
7. While waiting for my train, I took a walk (around, across) the station.
8. A formation of twelve airplanes flew (over, on top of) our house.
9. The artist spends many hours (in, on) his studio (on, at) 50 Charles Street.
10. John found a note pinned (in, on) his door which said: “Meet me (at, in) the corner of Pine and Fifth Streets.”
11. The Blake family lives (at, on) Third Street (in, on) Cleveland, Ohio.
12. Don’t forget to put your return address (in, on) the envelope.
13. He sat (near, against) the camp fire.
14. Mr. Flanagan, who is (from, of) Ireland, is staying (at, to) his sister’s home in Boston.
15. Someone has spilled ink (in, on) this rug and has burned a hole (in, on) that one.
16. The door was locked; so I shoved the letter (under, around) the door.
17. He piled the books (above, on top of) the table.
18. He arrived (in, at) Switzerland last week.
19. You are ahead of me. Your name is (above, at the top of) the list.
20. Your score on the examination is well (above, over) average.

(B) Time

1. Does the movie begin (at, on) 6:30? No, it will not begin (until, for) 9:00; so do not arrive (before, by) that time.
2. He asked me to come (at, in) noon.
3. We will go to Florida (since, during) the month of January.
4. The stores stay open (on, in) Mondays (until, for) 9:00p.m.
5. Mary has been in the United States (for, during) a year.
6. John has lived in France (for, since) two years.
7. I read (for, during) three hours, (at, from) 9:00p.m. (until, by) 12:00.
8. Did you meet Mr. Green (at, during) your stay in Savannah?
9. No, I did not see him because I was there (for, during) only two hours.
10. The train is (on, in) time. It will arrive (in, by) three hours.
11. Is your birthday (in, on) April? Mine is (in, on) April 7.
12. Come (by, on) 8:00 if you can; no one will be seated at the theater (after, since) 8:30.
13. I try to get to school (in, on) time to have a cup of coffee before my first class.
14. He will leave for Thailand (at, in) the end of August. There will be a farewell party for him (in, on) the twentieth of August.
15. Columbus discovered America (in, on) 1492.
16. The projector broke down twice (for, during) the showing of the film.
17. He had been waiting here (during, since) noon.
18. I received my bill (to, in) the middle of the month.
19. Can you be ready (by, on) six o'clock?
20. We plan to finish this project (around, until) the first of the year.

(C) Miscellaneous

1. We accept your kind invitation (by, with) pleasure.
2. I should like to read that book (by, of) Ernest Hemingway.
3. These oranges are sold (of, by) the dozen.
4. The door (of, at) the house is painted red.
5. He says he can communicate (by, of) mental telepathy.
6. Always sign important papers (by, in) ink.
7. Would you rather write (by, with) a pen or pencil?
8. Over one-third (of, in) the oranges are spoiled.
9. The first speech will be given (by, of) Mr. Steele.
10. Do you like to travel (by, in) bus?
11. He toured the country (in, by) a station wagon.
12. How would you like to go (by, with) us (by, in) our car?
13. This liquid smells (like, as) turpentine.
14. This cake is (for, to) lunch.
15. We always buy olive oil (of, by) the gallon.
16. The sound (of, by) rain lulls me to sleep.
17. It looks (like, as) a nice day.
18. It will take four yards (of, by) material to make this dress.
19. He always speaks (in, by) a loud voice.
20. Stanley took a temporary job (as, like) a chauffeur.

Draw a circle around the correct preposition in parentheses in the following paragraphs:

1. John Doe, who graduated (of, from) the University of North Carolina two years ago, is now doing graduate work (in, on) engineering (at, to) Georgia Tech. He expects to receive his Master's degree (by, in) next June. After that, he plans to accept a job (as, like) a technician (by, with) an oil company (in, at) South America.

2. Jim was walking (across, over) the campus (in, at) noon when he met a friend whom he had not seen (since, during) summer. They stopped (in front of, around) the gymnasium and sat down (in, on) the steps. After they had talked (for, during) about ten minutes, Jim said, "I must go (toward, to) Jefferson Hall this semester. Why don't you drop by some afternoon (over, after) classes?"

3. Mr. Hill arrived in New York (on, in) May 10 (at, on) eight o'clock (in, on) the evening. He decided to call on his uncle who lived (on, in) Fifth Avenue. He got on a bus (at, of) the station and put his fare (on, into) the farebox. The bus was very crowded, so Mr. Hill had to stand up all the way.

When he reached 85th Street, Mr. Hill got off the bus and walked a short distance (in, to) the apartment building (in, of) which his uncle lived. He knocked (at, in) the door (of, on) his uncle's apartment. He waited (for, during) a few minutes, but no one came (to, at) the door. He was disappointed to find no one (to, at) home. He didn't know where to go because his uncle had promised to reserve a room for him (at, by) a downtown hotel. He saw a bench (at, to) the end of the hall, and he sat down (on, in) it to wait for his uncle.

Insert an appropriate preposition in the blanks in the following sentences:

1. They arrived _____ Bombay _____ 8:00p.m. _____ July 30.
2. Charles lives _____ College Avenue _____ an apartment.
3. Phoenix is located _____ the state _____ Arizona.
4. John asked me to go _____ him to buy a pair _____ shoes.
5. Put a pad _____ the hot dish to protect the table.
6. Mr. Walker has _____ a grey suit today.
7. This story was written _____ Conan Doyle.
8. My aunt stayed at our house _____ two weeks.
9. Mary is a good housekeeper; she always sweeps _____ the bed.
10. They had to drive _____ the block four times before they found a parking place.
11. There is an ink spot _____ the collar _____ your shirt.
12. Please write _____ ink, and don't forget to write _____ every other line.
13. Did you receive a letter _____ your brother yesterday?
14. The bus will not leave _____ fifteen minutes.
15. Elections are held _____ the first Tuesday _____ November.
16. Maximo always entertains us _____ stories of his experiences.
17. Does this bus go _____ Central City?
18. Mr. And Mrs. Simpson have lived _____ Chesnut Street _____ six years.
19. Dr. Parks has been living _____ Mobile _____ October. His home is _____
20. He dived _____ the lake and swam _____ the boat.

Fill in the blanks with the appropriate preposition in the following paragraphs.

1. Would you please tell me how to get _____ the baseball park? Certainly. You go down Arch Street two blocks and turn left _____ King Street. Stay _____ King Street _____ about two miles. You will go _____ a bridge and _____ a tunnel. You will come to Ocean Avenue about four blocks after you leave the tunnel. Turn right _____ Ocean Avenue, and _____ the middle of the block you will see the main entrance _____ the ball park. I would suggest that you drive your car _____ the block and park _____ the parking lot behind the field.

2. _____ June 13 the Circle Players will open _____ Star Theater _____ a revival _____ George Bernard Shaw's play, Major Barbara. When the play opened _____ Philadelphia a week ago, the critics gave the Circle Players enthusiastic reviews. Good reviews are not unusual for the Circle Players, who have thrilled audiences _____ their performances _____ the past decade. In fact, they were so loudly acclaimed _____ London for their performance of Major Barbara that the play ran _____ three years.

Tickets are now on sale _____ the box office _____ the Star Theatre _____ the three week engagement. There will be a performance every night, except Sunday, _____ 8:30p.m., and a matinee _____ Wednesday and Saturday _____ 2:30 p.m. Reservations may be made _____ mail or telephone.