

IELTS NARAYANGANJ

PREPOSITION LECTURE

Types of Prepositions

Prepositions can be categorized into several types, each serving different functions:

1. Prepositions of Time

These indicate specific times or periods. Common examples include:

- **on**: "We will meet on Monday."
- **in**: "I was born in 1990."
- **at**: "The meeting starts at 10 AM."
- **since, for, before**, etc.

2. Prepositions of Place

These describe locations or positions:

- **in**: "The cat is in the box."
- **on**: "The book is on the table."
- **at**: "She is at the store."
- Other examples include **under, above, between**, etc.

3. Prepositions of Direction

These indicate movement or direction:

- **to**: "She walked to the park."
- **from**: "He came from London."
- Examples also include **into, out of**, and **towards**.

4. Compound Prepositions

These are formed by combining two or more words and function similarly to simple prepositions:

- Examples include **in front of, next to**, and **due to**.

5. Prepositional Phrases

A prepositional phrase consists of a preposition, its object, and any modifiers. For example:

- "In the morning" (where "in" is the preposition and "the morning" is the object).

Importance in IELTS Writing

Accuracy in Task 1

Using prepositions accurately is particularly important in IELTS Writing Task 1, where you describe data from graphs and charts. Misusing prepositions can lead to misinterpretation of data, affecting your score significantly. For instance:

- Use "increase by" when referring to the amount of increase (e.g., "Sales increased by 20%").
- Use "increase to" when indicating a new level (e.g., "Sales increased to 200 units").

Common Errors

Common mistakes include confusing similar prepositions or misplacing them within sentences. For instance, using "by" instead of "to" can change the meaning entirely:

- Correct: "The population increased by 10,000."
- Incorrect: "The population increased to 10,000."

Now we will discuss at length -----

Prepositions of Time: Prepositions of time are essential in English as they help specify when an action occurs. Understanding how to use them correctly is particularly important for achieving clarity in both spoken and written communication.

Example - Common Prepositions of Time

1. At

- **Usage:** Used to indicate a specific time.
- **Examples:**
 - "The meeting starts **at** 3 PM."
 - "I usually wake up **at** dawn."

2. On

- **Usage:** Used for specific days and dates.
- **Examples:**
 - "We will go to the concert **on** Saturday."
 - "Her birthday is **on** April 5th."

3. In

- **Usage:** Used for longer periods such as months, years, centuries, and long periods.
- **Examples:**
 - "I was born **in** July."
 - "The project will be completed **in** 2025."

4. Since

- **Usage:** Used to indicate a starting point in time up to the present moment.
- **Examples:**

- "I have lived here **since** 2010."
- "She has been working at the company **since** last year."

5. For

- **Usage:** Used to indicate a duration of time.
- **Examples:**
 - "He has been studying English **for** three years."
 - "They will stay here **for** a week."

6. Before

- **Usage:** Indicates a time earlier than a specific point.
- **Examples:**
 - "Please finish your homework **before** dinner."
 - "I arrived home **before** it started raining."

7. After

- **Usage:** Indicates a time later than a specific point.
- **Examples:**
 - "We can go out for dinner **after** the movie."

- "She called me after she got home."

8. During

- **Usage:** Refers to a period of time in which something happens.
- **Examples:**

- "I read a lot of books during the summer."
- "He fell asleep during the lecture."

9. By

- **Usage:** Indicates that something will happen before or at a specific time

Prepositions of Place

Prepositions of place are words that describe the location of something in relation to another object. Understanding these prepositions is essential for conveying spatial relationships clearly.

Common Prepositions of Place

1. In

- **Usage:** Indicates that something is inside a defined space.
- **Example:** The cat is **in** the box.

2. On

- **Usage:** Indicates that something is resting on a surface.
- **Example:** The book is **on** the table.

3. At

- **Usage:** Refers to a specific point or location.
- **Example:** She is waiting **at** the bus stop.

4. Under

- **Usage:** Indicates that something is directly beneath another object.
- **Example:** The shoes are **under** the bed.

5. Above

- **Usage:** Indicates that something is higher than another object but not necessarily directly over it.
- **Example:** The painting hangs **above** the fireplace.

6. Below

- **Usage:** Indicates that something is lower than another object.
- **Example:** The temperature is **below** freezing.

7. Next to / Beside

- **Usage:** Indicates that something is adjacent to another object.
- **Example:** The bank is located **next to** the grocery store.

8. Between

- **Usage:** Indicates that something is in the space separating two objects.
- **Example:** The park is located **between** the school and the library.

9. Behind

- **Usage:** Indicates that something is at the back of another object.
- **Example:** The dog is hiding **behind** the couch.

10. In front of

- **Usage:** Indicates that something is positioned before another object.
- **Example:** The car is parked **in front of** the house.

11. Inside

- **Usage:** Similar to "in," it emphasizes being within an enclosed space.
- **Example:** The kids are playing **inside** the house.

12. Outside

- **Usage:** Indicates being in the open air, away from an enclosed space.

- **Example:** They are sitting **outside** on the patio.

Prepositions of Direction

1. To

- **Usage:** Indicates movement toward a specific place.
- **Example:** She is going **to** the store.

2. Into

- **Usage:** Indicates movement from outside to a point inside.
- **Example:** The dog ran **into** the house.

3. Onto

- **Usage:** Indicates movement toward a surface, suggesting that something is placed on top.
- **Example:** He climbed **onto** the roof.

4. From

- **Usage:** Indicates the starting point of a movement.
- **Example:** She traveled **from** New York to Los Angeles.

5. Toward

- **Usage:** Indicates movement in the direction of something, without necessarily reaching it.
- **Example:** He walked **toward** the exit.

6. Across

- **Usage:** Indicates movement from one side to another, typically over a surface.
- **Example:** They swam **across** the lake.

7. Through

- **Usage:** Indicates movement within a space or area, often from one side to another.
- **Example:** The tunnel goes **through** the mountain.

8. Along

- **Usage:** Indicates movement in a line next to something.
- **Example:** They walked **along** the beach.

9. Past

- **Usage:** Indicates movement beyond a certain point or object.
- **Example:** She walked **past** the park on her way home.

10. Up

- **Usage:** Indicates movement to a higher position or level.
- **Example:** He climbed up the stairs.

11. Down

- **Usage:** Indicates movement to a lower position or level.
- **Example:** She slid down the hill.

12. Around

- **Usage:** Indicates movement in a circular direction or surrounding something.
- **Example:** They walked around the block.

Two-Word Compound Prepositions

These consist of two words that together function as a preposition.

Preposition	Example Sentence
In between	The park is located in between the school and the library.
Out of	She took the cat out of the box.
Up to	He can run up to five miles without stopping.
By far	This is by far the best option available.
Out from	The rabbit jumped out from behind the bush.
Within reach	The cookies are within reach of the children.
In front	The car is parked in front of the house.
Behind us	The dog is running behind us on the trail.

Preposition Example Sentence

On account of	She was late on account of traffic.
In front of	The dog sat in front of the fireplace.
Instead of	He chose tea instead of coffee.
By means of	They completed the project by means of teamwork.

Three-Word Compound Prepositions

These consist of three words that also function as a single preposition.

Preposition	Example Sentence
In addition to	In addition to his salary, he receives bonuses.
On top of	The book is on top of the shelf.
In spite of	They went hiking in spite of the rain.

Prepositional Phrases

A prepositional phrase is a group of words that begins with a preposition and includes its object, which can be a noun, pronoun, gerund, or clause, along with any modifiers. These phrases provide additional information about time, place, direction, and manner in a sentence.

Importance in IELTS Writing

Using prepositional phrases effectively can significantly improve your IELTS writing score by:

- **Enhancing Clarity:** They provide clear context, helping to avoid ambiguity.
- **Improving Cohesion:** They link ideas smoothly, making your writing flow better.
- **Demonstrating Range:** A variety of prepositional phrases showcases your grammatical range and flexibility.

Functions of Prepositional Phrases in WT1

1. Describing Location

- Prepositional phrases can indicate where data points are situated within the visual representation.
 - Example: "The sales figures are highest **in the second quarter.**"

2. Indicating Time

- They help specify when events occurred or when data was collected.
 - Example: "The population increased **over the last decade.**"

3. Showing Comparison

- Prepositional phrases can be used to compare different data sets or trends.
 - Example: "Sales of Product A were higher **than those of Product B.**"

4. Explaining Relationships

- They clarify relationships between different elements in the visual data.
 - Example: "The number of visitors rose sharply **during the summer months.**"

Examples of Prepositional Phrases in Context

When writing about a chart or graph, you might use prepositional phrases as follows:

- **In terms of location:** "The highest point **on the graph** indicates peak sales."
- **Regarding time:** "Sales figures were consistent **throughout the year.**"
- **For comparisons:** "The revenue from exports was greater **than that from imports.**"
- **To explain trends:** "There was a significant decline **in the last quarter.**"

Tips for Using Prepositional Phrases Effectively

1. **Vary Your Phrasing:** Use a mix of prepositional phrases to avoid repetition and enhance your writing style.
2. **Be Specific:** Choose precise prepositions that accurately describe the relationships you want to convey.
3. **Practice Descriptive Writing:** Regularly practice describing various types of data using prepositional phrases to improve fluency and coherence.