

# PREPOSITIONS AN INTRODUCTION

## What is a preposition?

It's a grammatical tool that is used to introduce \_\_\_\_\_, which can be a concrete noun, an abstract idea, a pronoun or a gerund, for example.  
Ex: I am waiting. vs I am waiting \_\_\_\_\_ you / the bus.

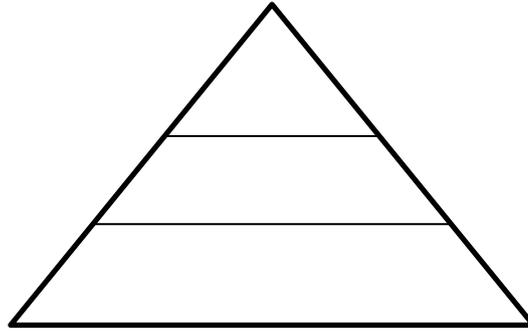
Prepositions can be used before words:  
as well as after as in these examples:

- \_\_\_\_\_ the morning
- Verbs (talk \_\_\_\_\_ somebody)
- Adjectives (good \_\_\_\_\_ something)
- Nouns (ability \_\_\_\_\_ something)

**1▶** Sometimes they have a specific meaning or reflect some logical system. For example:

### TIME

half past six    midnight  
Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>    your birthday  
Sunday    New Year's Eve  
July 1997    the twenties  
the XX century    the winter



### LOCATION

work    52 Green Street  
(AmE) Green Street  
(BrE) Green Street  
Toronto    Canada    Europe

But there always seem to be exceptions such as \_\_\_\_\_ | the morning    or \_\_\_\_\_ night  
the afternoon  
the evening

And in BrE they say \_\_\_\_\_ the weekend but in AmE they say \_\_\_\_\_ the weekend.

**2▶** Sometimes they are simply associated with a particular word or words. This is called \_\_\_\_\_

For example: speak, think, dream, write, read \_\_\_\_\_ st / sb.    I am interested \_\_\_\_\_ st / sb.  
introduces a theme

**Note: st = something    sb = somebody**

While there can be some kind of logic connected to why one preposition is used and not another, it may not always be clear or even present. It is best to think of them as simply 'expressions' and this group of words are typically used together when expressing this meaning.

What are the prepositions typically used in the following?

afraid _____ st / sb	_____ a holiday
arrive _____ a city or country	lend st _____ sb
arrive _____ another place (ex the hotel)	proud _____ sb / st
depend _____ sb / st	surprised _____ st
good _____ st	worried _____ st / sb

*How can you learn the correct prepositions?*

By reading a lot you can develop an intuitive feeling over time for some typical collocations. These unions 'sound right' but you're not sure why. You can make a list of some typical examples you use, particularly those you encounter in your reading, the mistakes you make in your writing and in exercises in workbooks, grammar books and online. Below are a few more prepared for you but don't stop with these.

One last tip. If you know the opposite or a synonym of a word, chances are that it uses the same preposition.

- |                        |                           |                        |
|------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. ashamed _____ st/sb | 5. count _____ st/sb      | 9. scared _____ st/sb  |
| 2. awful _____ st      | 6. frightened _____ st/sb | 10. rely _____ sb / st |
| 3. arrive _____ time   | 7. bad _____ st           | 11. shocked _____ st   |
| 4. borrow st _____ sb  | 8. happy _____ st         | 12. terrific _____ st  |