

PREPOSITIONS A FEW USEFUL IDEAS ON THEIR MEANINGS

1► SPATIAL DIMENSIONS

If you know the intrinsic meaning of the prepositions (what they're usually designed to mean), then this could help you to better understand the meaning of the sentence, the relationships between the references in the sentence and of course, phrasal verbs. If the preposition is used idiomatically then this traditional meaning probably won't be of much use.

Here are some uses of prepositions where knowing their meaning helps you understand:

Consider how you can look at space and the position of something from a particular perspective.

A --We can often refer to a particular **POINT** in space (and time).

I'll meet you _____ school. The show starts _____ a quarter past six.

NOTE: There are two more prepositions if we're thinking of origin and destination.

I walk _____ (origin) my house _____ (destination) work every day.

I work _____ (origin) 10 am _____ (destination) 5 pm.

B --Some prepositions can refer to a **LINE**.

_____ on the other side of a line ex: We live _____ the street (from you).

_____ next to the line, for some duration ex: We walked _____ the river.

_____ the location is part of the line ex: (AmE) We live _____ Green Street.

C --**SURFACE** (flat) area

The fly walked _____ the ceiling. There's something _____ your glasses.

D --an enclosed or surrounding **AREA**

We were stuck _____ the elevator for ages. The children played _____ the car.

You can play here but you can't go _____ the park.

E **REVIEW OF CONCEPTS**

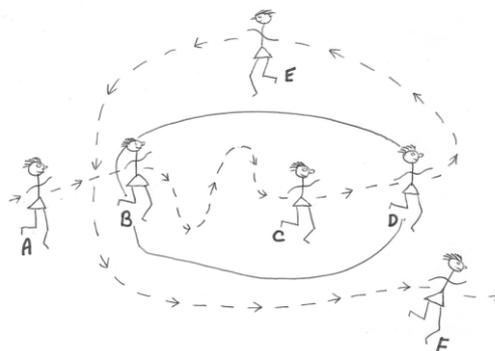
Look at these sentences and decide if they refer to a point, a line, a surface or an area or volume of something:

1)The paper boat floated **on the river**.

2)We went **to the river**.

3)We swam **in the river**.

4)It's **down the river**.



2► RELATIONSHIP OF DIRECTION

Write the appropriate word(s) in the gap below:

- A) She's walking _____ the park.
- B) She's walking _____ the park.
- C) She's walking _____ the park.
- D) She's walking _____ the park.
- E) She's walking _____ the park.
- F) She's walking _____ the park.

He is _____ (origin) Canada. She is walking _____ (destination) the park.

I work _____ (origin) eight _____ (destination) five o'clock.

3► RELATIONSHIP WITH TIME REFERENCES

Give it to me

before
by

at
around

after

 half past six.

4► DEGREES OF INTENSITY OR MANNER

Throw the ball

 them.

They laughed

 me.

5► GENERAL OR SPECIFIC

This is

writing.
write

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