

Prepositions

Often referred to as the 'glue' which holds nouns, pronouns and gerunds together, prepositions are difficult to describe fully. The following is a basic explanation.

A preposition is a word which shows relationships among other words in the sentence. The relationships include direction, place, time, cause, manner and quantity.

Direction: I walked **across** the room, **towards** the door, and then I went **into** the yard.

(Shows movement)

Place: I met her **at** the airport **inside** Terminal 3, **by** the entrance to the cafe.

(shows location)

Time: **At** 3pm **in** the afternoon, **on** January 25th **in** 2010, there was an earthquake.

(Shows time)

Cause/reason: The class was a success **for** many reasons, but mainly **through** the skills of the teacher, who stepped in **because of** illness to the usual teacher.

(Tells us why)

Manner: He went to the meeting **in** his car, while Steve went **by** train and Peter went **with** his driver.

(Tells us how)

Quantity/Measure: We bought our vegetables **for** \$20, and they sell them **by** the kilo.

(Tells us how much)

Prepositions are also part of phrasal verbs and also prepositional phrases.

Phrasal verbs consist of a verb and a following preposition.

Examples: **Come in** and **sit down**, take **off** your coat and **put on** some music.

The plane **took off** at 9pm. I **came across** some old photos as I was **sorting out** some old things.

Prepositional phrases consist of the preposition followed by the noun.

Gerry was playing golf **at the course**, when he got a call **from his wife**, who asked him to get something **from the store, on his way home**.

For more information or classes to improve your knowledge of repositions, please register with us, or contact us.