Prepositions

Aim
Recognise, read, understand and use common prepositions in simple sentences.

Main Curriculum References
Actual references will vary with the learner group and the way the resource is used.

Entry 1 ESOL
Rw/E1.1a. recognise a limited number of words, signs and symbols
(ii) understand that some words and symbols occur in texts more frequently than others,
e.g.: articles - a, the, an; forms of verb to be, to have; prepositions - in, at, on, with, by;
negatives - no, not
(iv) understand and recognise use of in, out, off, down, in signs
Rs/ E1.1a Read and recognise simple sentence structures
(iii) recognise common patterns of simple sentences for statements e.g.
subject-verb-object, subject-verb-prepositional phrase e.g. He lives in London.

Entry 2 ESOL
Rs/ E2.1a. use grammatical structures that link clauses and help identify sequence
(iii) recognise simple prepositional phrases of time and place  By Monday ... In the end, ...
Rs/ E2.1b use knowledge of simple and compound sentence structure to work out meaning
(iii) understand that sentences follow grammatical patterns and that certain types of word
are more likely to recur in some places than others:
- know that prepositional phrases of time can come at the beginning or end of sentences

The ESOL curriculum also lists prepositions under the ‘Key Grammatical Structures’ as follows:

Entry 1
Adverbs and prepositional phrases
- common prepositions and prepositional phrases of place, e.g. at home, on the left, on the
   table

Entry 2
Adverbs and prepositional phrases (simple and compound sentences)
- prepositions and prepositional phrases of place and time, e.g. until tomorrow, by next
  week, by the river, at midnight, at once
**EXERCISE 1**

A preposition tells us the position of one thing in relation to another.

The pillows are **on** the bed - the word **on** is the preposition.

The boy is **in** the bed - **in** is the preposition.

The following words are all prepositions:

under - over - behind - near - into - on - outside - inside - through.

There are lots more!

Underline the prepositions in the following sentences.

1. The cat sat **on** the bed.
2. My shoes were **under** the bed.
3. It is snowing **outside**.
4. The ball went **over** the fence.
5. Ahmed lives **near** my house.
6. The book is **on** the shelf.
7. The teacher went **into** the room.
8. The book fell **under** the chair.
EXERCISE 2

Fill in the spaces with a preposition.

The cat is _____ a lead.

The cat is _____ the knitted blanket.

The fish is _____ the bowl.

The cats are _____ the box.

The cat is _____ the wall
EXERCISE 3

Complete each sentence by adding a preposition in the space.

1. The cat is ______ the carpet.
2. The cream jug is ______ the fridge.
3. The telephone is ______ the table.
4. The waste bin is ______ the television.
5. The sugar is ______ the tray.
6. I have put your coffee ______ you.
7. The football is ______ reach.
8. Cricket is ______ the television.
9. Are you coming ______ me?
10. Please come ______ me.
11. I would like you to come ______ me.
12. We can go ______ the woods.
13. The squirrel ran _____ the tree.
14. The monkey climbed _____ the branches.
15. The photograph was _____ the paper.
16. The sewing machine was _____ the bed.
17. The biscuits were _____ the tin.
18. The cups were _____ the table.
19. The plates were _____ the dishwasher.
20. The music was coming _____ the car.
EXERCISE 4

Use the words in the boxes to help you write a sentence about the picture. Include a preposition in your sentence.

1. girl
   washing basket
   towel
   putting

2. washing machine
   jumper
   water

3. iron
   ironing board
   sweater
   ironing
   basket
EXERCISE 5

Put the words into the right order to make a sentence and underline the word that is the preposition. Every sentence starts with the word The...

1. duck the on pond The swam.
2. after fox the The ran chicken.
3. behind the mouse The ran cooker.
4. parrot in sat The cage the.
5. under train the The went bridge.
6. shed in The outside the is garden.
7. dog the is house the outside.
8. rabbit the The cage in is.
9. child to ran the school.
10. went The park into ball the.
11. poured the drain The water down
12. in church The vicar the is.
13. cars around are The racing the track.
14. The is in rainbow sky the.
15. is thunder the overhead.
16. kicked boy the under The ball car.
17. The threw the girl hedge over ball the.
18. bus The across parked the road.
19. The along the road came coach.
20. cheese table is on the The.
EXERCISE 6

Complete each sentence by adding a preposition in the space.

1. We can walk _____ the bridge.
2. We can go _____ train or _____ bus.
3. My photograph is _____ the newspaper.
4. The newspaper is _____ the table.
5. The dog put his bone _____ the chair.
6. The river flows _____ the bridge.
7. The apples grow _____ the tree.
8. It is warmer _____ the house.
9. The present is _____ the box.
10. The wrapping paper is on the _____ of the present.
11. He put the dog _____ her lead.
12. My fish live _____ the water _____ a bowl.
13. The cars go _____ the bridge.
14. The wallpaper is _____ the walls.
15. Please sit _____ me on the settee.
16. Suzy is sitting _____ to my friend.
17. Please cover _____ the baby so he doesn't get cold.
18. The milk is _____ the worktop.
19. The chimney is _____ the roof.
20. The baby is _____ the pram.
21. The umbrella is _____ my head.
22. The smoke is coming _____ of the chimney.
EXERCISE 7

Rearrange the letters in brackets to spell a preposition.

1. My bedroom is (rove) the garage.
2. His slippers are (neudr) the bed.
3. It is very cold (tusiode) today.
4. She was going home (no) the train.
5. A diver dives (webol) the surface of the water.
6. We have our pudding (ferta) our dinner.
7. The fridge will fit (webeten) the cupboards.
8. My friend lives (vroe) the road.
9. Put your bicycle (gntsiaa) the wall.
10. The coffee tin is (hnideb) the sugar.
11. The bridge goes (ervo) the stream.
12. Coffee is served (freat) a meal.
13. Please put the ladder (eenebtw) the cupboards.
14. The mouse is jumping (ervo) the flowers.
15. The carpet is fraying (gonla) the edge.
16. The book is (rednu) the papers.
17. The fridge fits (wtneeeb) the washing machine and the dishwasher.
18. The unit is (aigetsn) the wall.
19. The cups are (wlebo) the shelf.
20. The wine is (ni) the fridge.
21. The runner came (refta) the cyclist.
22. The clock is (idebse) the pictures.
EXERCISE 8

Put the words into the right order to make a sentence.
Every sentence starts with the word 'The', 'He', 'It' or 'She'.

1. school going to He is a nearby.
2. running the across She is field.
3. behind the stored is It shed.
4. from has Hong It spare parts Kong.
5. the walks She under bridge.
6. the going It over bridge is.
7. lives the She above shop.
8. the lives shop She over.
9. jumped the up in He air.
10. to went school She early.
11. across sailing river She is the.
12. in is staying She Canada.
13. She in school goes to Cosham.
14. mantelpiece on clock is The the.
15. is paper on chair the The.
16. ran mouse around The cat the.
EXERCISE 9

Underline the prepositions.

1. The beans are in the tin.
2. The sugar is on the table.
3. The teacher is in the classroom.
4. The man ran across the road.
5. The people got on the bus.
6. The car was behind the garage.
7. It is raining outside.
8. The umbrella is in the hall.
9. The taps are on the bath.
10. The mirror is on the wall.
11. The girl walked through the door.
12. The cake was shared among the children.
13. The cake is covered with chocolate.
14. My cup is in the sink.
15. Put the cloth onto the table.
16. I like butter on my toast.
17. My knife is on the table.
18. The fire is against the wall.
19. The pillow is on the bed.
20. The cat is sitting under the tree.
21. The trees are near the hedge.
22. The hedge is beside the field.
EXERCISE 10

Circle all the prepositions.

1. The children made a cake in a bowl.
2. They found the bowl behind the tins.
3. The cake is covered with chocolate.
4. My cup is in the sink.
5. Put the tablecloth onto the table.
6. I like butter on my toast.
7. My knife is on the table.
8. How many people are coming with you?
9. Are you coming around today?
10. Please come and sit beside me on this chair.
11. The wind is going to blow under the door.
12. You can post that letter through their letterbox.
13. The ironing board is leaning against the wall.
14. The paper is under my chair.
15. Please put my coffee beside my bed.
16. The seam inside my dress is coming undone.
17. The music is coming from next door.
18. The kite has gone up in the sky.
19. The mouse is running around the kitchen.
20. The coffee comes after the meal.
21. The hospital is next to the hotel.
22. The clinic is over the road.
EXERCISE 11

Rearrange the letters in the brackets to spell a preposition.

1. The clock was (diebse) the bed.
2. The boy was (twih) his mother.
3. The aeroplane flew (rascso) the sky.
4. The water ran (otni) the drain.
5. The cows walked (hohurtg) the gate.
6. The man ran (ntoi) the hospital.
7. The child sat (ni) a pushchair.
8. The river ran (isbede) the cottage.
9. Please come to the shop (itwh) me.
10. I will meet you (ta) 10pm.
11. The money has rolled (dnreu) the chair.
12. The fight was (teweebn) the two men.
13. The football is (raen) the goal.
14. The paper is (hrtuoht) the letter box.
15. The carpet in (no) the floor.
16. The book is (sbidee) the clock.
17. The clock is (giaasnt) the wall.
18. The shed is (tuodise) in the garden.
19. The trailer is (hnbide) the car.
20. Please help me (dniise) with these toys.
EXERCISE 12

Rearrange the letters in the brackets to spell a preposition.

1. The microwave is (sdieeb) the cooker
2. The stool is (rednu) the table.
3. The men are working (deiseb) the railway.
4. The needle is coming (ruohght) the fabric.
5. The book came (rmof) the library.
6. Please put my coffee (diesbe) the bed.
7. This belt will not fit (uodnra) your waist.
8. Please put this box (reudn) the stairs.
9. The fly was flying (veboa) my head.
10. I cannot get (oghuhtr) to my sister on the telephone.
11. Please park your car (iedseb) mine.
12. The computer is (edsbei) the printer.
13. The dress is (no) the washing line.
14. The shelf is (vboae) my bed.
15. This ham came (omrf) Tesco’s.
16. This wire goes (tghuorh) the wall.
17. Please come and sit (ediseb) me on this settee.
18. We keep our drink (rednu) our stairs.
19. Keep this table (desini) the house.
20. The rabbit is running (uodnra) the garden.
EXERCISE 13

Use the words in the boxes to help you write a sentence about the picture. Include a preposition in your sentence.

- **house**
- **fence**
- **garden**

- **banana**
- **orange**
- **grapes**

- **egg**
- **egg cup**
- **shell**

- **eggs**
- **egg box**
EXERCISE 14

Use the words in the boxes to help you write a sentence about the picture. Include a preposition in your sentence.

1. boy
   car
   playing

2. car
   ferry
   sea
   sailing

3. boy
   dentist
   chair
EXERCISE 15

Use the words in the boxes to help you write a sentence about the picture. Include a preposition in your sentence.

1. cooker saucepan playing
2. man grass cutting lawnmower
3. man painting brush
EXERCISE 16

Use the words in the boxes to help you write a sentence about the picture. Include a preposition in your sentence.

1. bread
   toaster
   toast

2. boy
   ice cream
   eating
   hands

3. plate
   cherry
   cake

4. man
   trolley
   supermarket
   food
EXERCISE 17

Use the words in the boxes to help you write a sentence about the picture. Include a preposition in your sentence.

1. child mixing bowl margarine
2. children watching television film
3. lady tray drink squash
4. boy wrapped cushion drink
EXERCISE 18

Use the words in the boxes to help you write a sentence about the picture. Include a preposition in your sentence.

1. **chef**
   - barbecue
   - meat
   - cooking

2. **small**
   - hanging
   - boy
   - branch

3. **Christmas**
   - lights
   - presents
   - tree

4. **boy**
   - eggs
   - tree
   - nest
EXERCISE 19

Write a sentence about each picture. Include a preposition.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.
EXERCISE 20

Write a sentence about each picture. Include a preposition.

1. 

2. 

3. 

4. 

5. 

6. 

This resource was kindly contributed by Amanda Burgess, WEA (Workers’ Educational Association), Southern Region.

ESOL Entry 1 and 2 – curriculum details page 1.