

PREPOSITIONS - PLACE

These are words used to describe where something is, its position, or the location of one thing with another. They identify relationships between things in sentences:

I am **at** home. = *when you are surrounded by a space.*

I am sitting **on** the sofa. = *a physical connection between things.*

I am **in** the sitting room. = *in an enclosed space.*

AT, ON, IN are the three most commonly used prepositions of place, but there are lots of other prepositions we can use to describe where something is.

- **BEHIND** = My office is **BEHIND** the bank. = *two things, one in front and the other behind.*
- **BETWEEN** = The thief sat **BETWEEN** the two policemen. = *one thing with two things either side.*
- **IN FRONT OF** = The teacher stands **IN FRONT OF** the class. = *one thing directly opposite something else.*
- **NEXT TO / NEAR / BESIDES, ETC.**, = In my English lesson I always sit **NEXT TO** Rosy. = *one thing close to another.*
- **OVER / ABOVE** = The sign **ABOVE** the door says 'No smoking'. = *one thing higher than another.*
- **UNDER / BELOW** = The temperature outside was **BELOW** zero. = *one thing lower than another.*

- **OPPOSITE** = The bank is **OPPOSITE** the church. = *one thing across from another.*
- **AT THE TOP OF** = The address is **AT THE TOP OF** the page. = *something higher / above another thing.*
- **AT THE BOTTOM OF** = The signature is **AT THE BOTTOM OF** the page. = *something lower down than other things.*
- **ON TOP OF** = The statue is **ON TOP OF** the hill. = *a thing higher than something that is already high!*

Prepositions can be hard to categorize and often more difficult to learn. Memorising them is an important part of learning them. You should try other activities though like drawing pictures as you can visualise them, doing things like making flash cards, using charts, breaking them down into specific groups, using quizzes and learning drills, listening actively to podcasts, audiobooks to hear when they are used, or even playing games like “Simon says,” among other things!

There's no magical shortcut to learning prepositions—it takes time, patience, and practice. **DO IT OFTEN, DO IT WELL**, and soon you'll be able to use them confidently.