

Rules No. 5 & 14 – Definite Article

The fifth use of the definite article is to describe the position of something often with prepositions too. So we would say 'the top', the end of the street, etc. Rule No. 14 is similar in terms of directions.

Preposition:	Explanation:	Sample sentences:
above	higher relative to something else	The picture is above sofa.
across	on the other side of	Suzy lives across..... street from me.
around	in a circular way	They told stories around..... campfire.
at	Indicates a particular point	Meet me at.....bus stop.
behind	at the back of	The bank is behind..... shop.
below	lower relative to something else	I hung the poster belowmirror.
close to	near	The flowers are close to produce section.
over	above	The spices are over sink.
through	from one point to the next	The river runs through woods.
towards	in the direction of	The man started walking towards exit.
up	from low to high	The shop is right up road.
down	from high to low	The boy fell down hill.
between	in the space separating two things	The ring fell between cushions of the sofa.
by	near	The second hand shop is by bank.
near	close by	The cinema is near town centre.
next to	beside	The library is next to post office.
on	physical contact	Put the post on table.
onto	moving on top of something	The dog climbed onto bed.
past	To pass by something.	She drove past house.
under	below something	The cat slept under bed.

Listening Exercise - Now listen to 4 people giving directions using some of the prepositions above. Insert the definite article where you hear it. There are over 20:

Speaker A.

Go straight on. Then take first left on to Green Street. Walk past library and it's building next to library on left.

Speaker B.

Go straight on. Go past traffic lights. You will see a shop on right. Go past that and it's on right next to shop.

Speaker C.

Go straight on. Go past traffic lights and go straight on until you get to roundabout. At roundabout turn left. Go past theatre. It's building next to theatre, opposite hospital.

Speaker D.

Go straight on. Go past traffic lights and take second right onto King's Road. Go past bookshop. It's building next to bookshop opposite café.