

## ESL TUTORS' WORKSHOP # 4 – PREPOSITIONS

### OUTLINE:

1. What are the basic parts of speech?
  2. What is a preposition?
  3. Why are they so difficult to learn in English? (no rules/verb/noun+prep. varies)
  4. How can I avoid using a preposition in a sentence if I don't know it? ("trick")
  5. Focus on "in/in the/on/at/o" (there are some "rules" that can be helpful)
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### 1. BASIC PARTS OF SPEECH:

-ask them if they are familiar with the English terms and ask them to tell you what they mean (not only if they know what it is):

Noun

Verb

Adjective

Adverb

Preposition

Article

2. "PRE"+ "POSITION": it tells the position of something

-ask the student to give lots of examples (in, on, at, behind, in front of, above, below, beside, along, under, through, past, etc.)

- think of a beehive and the sentence "The bee flew \_\_\_\_\_ the beehive". (any word that fits into this blank is a preposition)

(2)

- they can also include words that are not as obviously viewed as a "position" (of, from, about, for, with, etc.), which can be confusing!

3. They are so difficult to learn because:

a. There are not many clearly defined rules (or you might say there are too many...meaning that every situation has a different rule!)

Example: cities = in //// other places might be "in" or "at"

b. Many words in English are always followed by a preposition and it varies so much too!

Listen + to	Prepare + for	Give + up
Think + about	Get married + to	Give + in
Vote + for	Deal + with	Give + away
Believe + in	Break + up	Give + to
Depend + on	Run + into	etc!!!!!!!!!!

\*really, there are no RULES, but some kinds of "guidelines" or logical ways of guessing which may work or may not (for example, students usually want to say "get married with someone" and it makes sense, but it's not correct, so they just have to memorize the correct answer...it is logical in a way, but so is "with", so it's confusing!!!!

4. To "solve" this problem (above), there are a few things you can do:

a. Just plod along and memorize them as much as you can by practice with a lot of speaking, writing, and listening, etc.....a very slow process....

b. Do that and ALSO learn a few basic guidelines that do exist about some of the prepositions (see examples from this packet/ask Denise)

c. Do both of those things, but IF IN DOUBT and you have to choose something (you have no choice!), SUBSTITUTE THE WORD "BECAUSE" INTO THE SENTENCE AND AVOID THE PREPOSITION!!!!!!

Example: I carved my name into the rock.

Change: I carved my name BECAUSE I wanted people to see it in the rock.

Example: They wandered around the countryside near their house.

Change: They wandered BECAUSE they wanted to enjoy the countryside near their house.

Example: They got married to each other last year.

Change: They got married, BECAUSE they loved each other, last year.

Example: We voted for Obama in the last election.

Change: We voted BECAUSE there was an election and our choice was Obama.

Example: He cheated on his girlfriend so many times.

Change: He cheated ,BECAUSE he was interested in another girl, so many times.

Example: I bet on a horse, but I lost my money.

Change: I bet BECAUSE I thought the race horse would win the race, but I lost my money.

BUT: It's not always possible (like with 2 word verbs/idioms).

Example: I gave up smoking last week.

I gave BECAUSE..... (doesn't make any sense...you NEED "up"))

Example: I ran into my friend downtown.

Change: I ran BECAUSE.....

5. FOCUSING ON: (THERE ARE SOME "RULES" THAT CAN BE VERY HELPFUL):

A. Have them guess the answers to the practice sheet (1) (with the sentence "It happened\_\_\_\_\_")

B. Talk about whether the following have more of a feeling of a "POINT IN TIME/EXACT AREA" or more a feeling of "LONGER TIME/ LARGER AREA"

IN

IN THE

ON

AT

0 (this means no preposition)

- C. Look at the practice sheet (with the sentence " It happened\_\_\_\_\_ ) and discuss the answers they would guess according to what they now have discussed about a specific point/area or a longer time/wider area.
- D. Look at the "rules" chart (2) and discuss the categories, especially the "0" category (when no preposition is used).
- E. Discuss the difference between two sentences:
  - a. I work at the supermarket.
  - b. I went to the supermarket.

- a. I live on Main Street
- b. I drove to Main Street
- c. I drove on Main Street

- a. I rented an apartment in Sao Paolo.
- b. I flew to Sao Paolo.
- c. I walked to Sao Paolo
- d. I walked in Sao Paolo

- F. Look at the chart with "rules" about moving verbs with places (3)
  - TO
  - TO THE \*discuss the use of "to + the" (story about a town)
  - 0 (means no preposition) \*discuss no preposition (reasons are the same as non-moving verbs)

- G. Practice thinking about MOVING and NON-MOVING verbs (remember, this rule applies to places only, not times)

\*sometimes verbs can be both

MOVING	NON-MOVING	BOTH	
Go	laugh	drive	
come	Work	swim	*arrive?
	sit	fly	
	sleep	travel	
	read	walk	

\*Look at the practice sheet (4) to think about making different kinds of sentences with different meanings depending on the kind of verb you use.

- |                               |          |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| TO                            | IN (THE) |
| TO THE                        | ON       |
| 0 (this means no preposition) | AT       |
|                               | 0        |

H. Have them do a practice paragraph (5) with both moving and non-moving verbs to seal what has been learned.

# It happened ... ①

## PREPOSITIONS:

Choose : AT - ON - IN - IN THE - 0

- |                              |                        |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 _____ Monday               | 15 _____ Davie Street  |
| 2 _____ afternoon            | 16 _____ 669 Davie St. |
| 3 _____ Monday afternoon     | 17 _____ Seoul         |
| 4 _____ today                | 18 _____ Kazakhstan    |
| 5 _____ 7:15                 | 19 _____ downtown      |
| 6 _____ May                  | 20 _____ school        |
| 7 _____ May 27               | 21 _____ your house    |
| 8 _____ May 27, 1999         | 22 _____ home          |
| 9 _____ 1999                 | 23 _____ there         |
| 10 _____ noon                |                        |
| 11 _____ Von's (supermarket) |                        |
| 12 _____ morning             |                        |
| 13. _____ yesterday morning  |                        |
| 14 _____ last Sunday         |                        |

2

Structure

Prepositions

Time and Location

<u>AT</u>	<u>ON</u>	<u>IN</u>	<u>IN THE</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>
669 Davie Street	Davie Street	Vancouver	West/East End	downtown
noon midnight night 2:30 7:15	Monday(s) Tuesday, etc. Monday morning Monday afternoon Monday evening		morning afternoon evening daytime	every day today yesterday this morning this afternoon this evening yesterday morning last night last weekend last Sunday
	May 22, 1974 June 16, 1975 September 16	May June Sept. 1974 1975		
669 Davie Street	Davie Street	Vancouver	West/East End	downtown
Eaton's C.P. Air B.C. Tel Safeway  V.C.C. St. Paul's Hospi- tal		a store a company an office a super- market a school a hospital		

BOTH  
AT IS MORE  
COMMON

Directions: Fill in the blanks with one of the prepositions above where necessary.

- E.g. 1. Chris and Sassa live in North Vancouver.
2. Rosa works \_\_\_\_\_ Safeway.
3. She works \_\_\_\_\_ Denny's Restaurant, \_\_\_\_\_ West End.
4. I go to school \_\_\_\_\_ V.C.C. 'UVIC
5. Maria came to Canada \_\_\_\_\_ January of this year.
6. We eat lunch \_\_\_\_\_ noon.
7. Is V.C.C. \_\_\_\_\_ 2750 Oak Street?

Structure

Prepositions

Time and Location

8. Vincent watches T.V. \_\_\_\_\_ midnight.
9. I was born \_\_\_\_\_ Hungary.
10. I was born \_\_\_\_\_ July 31, 1950.
11. I was born \_\_\_\_\_ July.
12. I was born \_\_\_\_\_ 1950.
13. She begins school \_\_\_\_\_ 6:45 \_\_\_\_\_ evening.
14. \_\_\_\_\_ Mondays, I am tired.
15. I eat rice \_\_\_\_\_ every day.
16. I'd like to eat \_\_\_\_\_ a restaurant \_\_\_\_\_ East End.
17. I will drive to work \_\_\_\_\_ today.
18. Did you phone me \_\_\_\_\_ last night?
19. Where did you go \_\_\_\_\_ last weekend?
20. I start work \_\_\_\_\_ 8:30 \_\_\_\_\_ morning.



Structure

Prepositions

(with go and come)

no article  
no preposition

to only

to the

home	bed	bank
downtown	jail	supermarket
abroad	church	park
overseas	school	store
here	work	specific mountains, valleys, rivers, etc.
there	Italy	Philippines, U.S.S.R., U.A.R., Ukraine, Yukon, U.S.A., Northwest Territories and other plurals.....
inside		
upstairs	all countries except →	
downstairs		

Directions: Fill in the blanks with prepositions if necessary.

- E.g. 1. I'm going \_\_\_\_\_ home now. (no preposition necessary)
- E.g. 2. Sue went to bed at 10:00.
- We came \_\_\_\_\_ Canada in 1980.
  - Are you going \_\_\_\_\_ inside now?
  - Bob comes \_\_\_\_\_ here every day.
  - Last year I went \_\_\_\_\_ U.S.A.
  - My father is coming \_\_\_\_\_ home soon.
  - I'm going \_\_\_\_\_ bank after school.
  - The children go \_\_\_\_\_ upstairs at night.
  - Soo Hing went \_\_\_\_\_ China for a holiday.

MOVING VERBS (list 20):

NON-MOVING VERBS (list 20):

SENTENCES:

621 East Street:

1.

Home:

2.

Downtown:

3.

There:

4.

Mountains:

5.

Oak Street:

6.

United States:

7.

Bank:

8.

Supermarket

9.

Lake

10.

621 East Street:

1.

home:

2.

downtown:

3.

there:

4.

mountains:

5.

Oak Street:

6.

United States:

7.

bank:

8.

supermarket:

9.

lake:

10.

PREPOSITIONS:

I live \_\_\_\_ Young St. Actually, I live \_\_\_\_ 226 Young Street. It's \_\_\_\_ Korea \_\_\_\_ Pusan City. I love to go \_\_\_\_ mountains! I work \_\_\_\_ a university as a teacher. I take the bus \_\_\_\_ work \_\_\_\_ every day \_\_\_\_ 8:00am \_\_\_\_ morning. My boss lives \_\_\_\_ U.S., but he also has a house \_\_\_\_ here. He always goes \_\_\_\_ overseas on the weekend. \_\_\_\_ last Saturday, I went \_\_\_\_ park. Sometimes I go \_\_\_\_ library or \_\_\_\_ bank. \_\_\_\_ this weekend, I'm going to meet my friend \_\_\_\_ my house. I said, " Come \_\_\_\_ home with me and relax \_\_\_\_ there." \_\_\_\_ that night, we are going to go \_\_\_\_ downtown and when we arrive \_\_\_\_ the movie theater, we'll talk about my birthday. It's \_\_\_\_ July. It's \_\_\_\_ Sunday. Actually, it's \_\_\_\_ Sunday, July 6<sup>th</sup>. Well, it's \_\_\_\_ Sunday, July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2004. Oh, I have to say good-bye because I don't want to go \_\_\_\_ bed \_\_\_\_ tonight \_\_\_\_ midnight! I love to write \_\_\_\_ night. \_\_\_\_ this evening, I am enjoying myself, but it's not good to stay up too late \_\_\_\_ evening!

extra  
practice



PREPOSITIONS:

I was born \_\_ July. Well, \_\_ July 10<sup>th</sup>, 1988. I'll tell you about the day I traveled \_\_ Taipei for the first time by train. I live \_\_ U.S.A. Actually, I live \_\_ L.A. Well, I really live \_\_ Freemont Street. Specifically, I live \_\_ 2275 Freemont St. I love studying \_\_ CalstateLA! I sit \_\_ my class and think about what it would be like to live \_\_ Taipei. Well, the day I arrived \_\_ the airport \_\_ Taipei, I saw my friend waiting for me \_\_ the seating area inside the airport. I ran \_\_ my friend and told her I wanted to go \_\_ home right away. I mean, \_\_ house (my friend's). She told me that she could take me \_\_ downtown first, but I said I was too tired to go \_\_ there now. We left the airport \_\_ 7:30 and drove \_\_ home \_\_ night ( \_\_ midnight). I told her I wanted to get up \_\_ 7:30 \_\_ morning and \_\_ 8:00am \_\_ the next morning. \_\_ the next day \_\_ library \_\_ Taipei, I read a book about mountains. I wanted to go \_\_ mountains and I wanted to relax \_\_ beach. We did and it was wonderful!

extra practice

Structure

Prepositions/Question-Words

Directions: Make a question and ask your partner.

E.g. 1. Where were you born? (city, country)

I was born in Tokyo, Japan.

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2. \_\_\_\_\_ were you born? (date)

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3. \_\_\_\_\_ did you come to Canada? (month, year)

---

4. \_\_\_\_\_ do you live? (address, city)

---

5. \_\_\_\_\_ is your house? (street)

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6. \_\_\_\_\_ do you work now? (place: e.g. factory, restaurant, etc.)

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7. \_\_\_\_\_ did you work before? (place)

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8. \_\_\_\_\_ do you start work every day? (time: morning, afternoon, evening)

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9. \_\_\_\_\_ do you finish work? (time: morning, afternoon, evening)

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10. \_\_\_\_\_ do you do at night? (read, watch T.V., etc.)

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## 56 Prepositions and Adverbial Particles

- 5 I bought this hat — fifty pence.  
 6 He hasn't been here — Monday.  
 7 Our cat was bitten — a dog.  
 8 My home is — London, but I was born — Lynton, a small village — Devonshire.  
 9 Put, your books — the table.  
 10 You may write — pencil.  
 11 There's no bus; we'll have to go — foot.  
 12 We went — the seaside — car.  
 13 Get — the bus here, and get off — the third stop.  
 14 Many planes fly — the Atlantic nowadays.  
 15 We've been waiting — over an hour.  
 16 I'll call — you — a more convenient time.  
 17 Hold it carefully — your thumb and first finger.  
 18 I couldn't hear what they were talking —  
 19 A girl — blue eyes has just gone — the door.  
 20 Here's a present — you; don't forget it and go home — it.  
 21 The teacher was sitting — a desk — the class.  
 22 — him was a blackboard.  
 23 As he was coming — me, he threw some orange-peel — the fence — his way — the garden.  
 24 They were standing — the two houses.  
 25 We had to go — the hill — a little house — the top.  
 26 She was looking — the window — the busy street.  
 27 We walked — the main road, turned left — the railway station, and went as far as the third turning — the right.  
 28 Read — line 10 — line 20 — page 7.  
 29 You can use my knife to cut it —.  
 30 The stream ran — a little tunnel — the roadway.  
 31 He spoke — me — his hands — his pockets.  
 32 I walked — one end of the street — the other.  
 33 You can reach the station — bus — ten minutes.  
 34 The pictures will be — show — one week longer.  
 35 I'm bringing an old book — leather covers — you — the evening — dinner.  
 36 Don't look — me like that!  
 37 A brick has fallen — the well and knocked the bucket — the rope.

## 56 Prepositions and Adverbial Particles

- 38 I must look — the postcard I got — my teacher last week.  
 39 Most children remain — school — the ages of six and sixteen.  
 40 The first space vehicle travelled — the world hundreds of times — a few weeks.  
 41 I fell — a rock when I was climbing — a mountain last week.  
 42 It's farther than I thought; it's — ten kilometres — the shortest route.  
 43 Switzerland lies — Germany, France and Italy.  
 44 I'm staying — friends not far — the station.  
 45 Please come — me — the theatre tonight.  
 46 Who did you give the money —?  
 47 Children — four years — age do not often go — school.  
 48 My school was founded — Edward VI — 1553.  
 49 Come and sit — this sunshade — a comfortable deck-chair.  
 50 Do you want to speak — me — anything?  
 51 There's a knock — the door. Who can be calling — us — this late hour?  
 52 Don't go out — the rain — a hat.  
 53 I like to smoke a cigarette and listen — the radio — half an hour or so — dinner.  
 54 The cat is hiding — us — the table.  
 55 I must work hard — history because I'm not very good — it.  
 56 I wonder if I shall get — my history examination.  
 57 You can cut the apple — two — this knife.  
 58 I go — the post office every day — my way — work.  
 59 Let's go — a walk — the garden — dinner-time.  
 60 When we get back — our walk, we're going to sit — the fire — our books — half an hour.

## 56.2

Elementary  
and  
Intermediate

ADVERBIAL PARTICLES combine with verbs even more often than prepositions to form idiomatic compounds. Most of them have the same form as their corresponding prepositions, but the following seven are adverbial only and never used as prepositions:  
 away, back, out; backward(s), downward(s), forward(s), upward(s).