



## Definition

A preposition is a word placed before a noun (or a pronoun) to show in what relation the person or thing denoted by the noun stands to something else.

The preposition must have an object or the sentence is not complete. If we say 'The letter is from,' the sentence is not complete. The letter must be from somebody (or some place). We must say 'The letter is from Rama' or 'The letter is from Mumbai,' or something similar.

The noun or pronoun that follows a preposition is said to be governed by the preposition, and is called its object.

### Exercise 1

Underline the *preposition* and circle its *object* in each of the following sentences.

1. He is blind in one eye.
2. His house is near mine.
3. He returned after a year.
4. Have you seen a rose without a thorn?

5. What are you looking at?

7. She is weak in arithmetic.

9. She spoke in a whisper.

6. What is he talking about?

8. The horse jumped over the hedge.

10. The boy climbed up the ladder.



## Exercise 2

Insert the correct *preposition* in each of the following sentences.

1. The dog jumped into the river. (in, into)
2. The portrait was painted by a famous artist. (with, by)
3. I have not seen him for a long time. (for, since)
4. He was killed by the robber with a hatchet. (by, with)
5. How long have you stayed in this village? (in, at)
6. We live at 36 Park Street. (in, at)
7. He has been working in this factory for three years. (since, for)
8. She has been ill since last month. (since, for)
9. We met him on Sunday morning. (on, in)
10. We walked from the museum to the station. (till, to)

## Exercise 3

Fill in the blanks with appropriate *prepositions*.

1. He has spent his life in Delhi.
2. I saw him felling a big tree with a hatchet.
3. He travelled 120 km in two hours.



4. He is laid down with fever since yesterday.
5. He rushed into my room, panting for breath.
6. The Rajdhani Express is due at 3 p.m.
7. The child has been missing since last Tuesday.
8. The portrait was painted by Ravi Verma.
9. He hanged himself with a piece of cloth.
10. He was born in a small village in Gujarat.



## Position of Prepositions

### Rules

1. The preposition is usually placed before the noun or pronoun it governs, but it is often placed at the *end* of the sentence when the relative pronoun is omitted; as,
  - That is the boy (*whom*) I was speaking of.
2. In interrogative sentences the preposition is often placed at the end; as,
  - *What* are you talking *about*?
  - *What* do you want me *for*?
  - *What* is this made *of*?
  - *Who* are you looking *for*?
3. When the object is the relative pronoun *that*, the preposition is always placed at the end; as,
  - Here is the book *that* you asked *for*.
  - This is the boy *that* I spoke *of*.
4. The preposition is also placed at the end when emphasis is required; as,
  - *This* I insist *on*.
  - Such *conduct* I am at a loss to account *for*.

Certain verbs, nouns, and adjectives are always followed by particular prepositions. Read the following sentences. Note the correct preposition after each word in italics.

- He *agreed to* my proposal.
- Silk-worms *feed on* mulberry leaves.
- He was *punished for* misconduct.
- I beg leave to *differ from* you.
- He was *born of* poor parents.
- The doctor *cured him of* asthma.
- I had *difficulty in* finding his address.
- This drug acts as a *preventive of* malaria.
- He is *bound by* a contract.
- He *supplied* the poor *with* clothing.
- He is *engaged to* my cousin.
- She was *dressed in* a white saree.
- I *warned* him *of* the danger.
- *Beware of* pickpockets.
- What is the *matter with* the child?
- Little Jack proved quite a *match for* the giant.
- He is *dependent on* his parents.
- He is *deficient in* common sense.



## Exercise 4

A. Fill in the blanks with correct *prepositions*.

1. A wise man profits by experience.
2. I have a picture similar to yours.
3. You may rely on what he says.
4. He has no taste for music.
5. You will be sorry for your mistake.
6. His face is familiar to me.
7. His sister died of consumption.
8. He is married to my cousin.
9. The jury found him guilty of murder.
10. Take care of your health.

B. Complete the sentences with correct *prepositions*.

1. The dog is faithful to his master.
2. My sister is fond of fairy tales.
3. He is always in need of money.
4. He is acquainted with all the facts.
5. She is fond of children.
6. Never yield to temptations.
7. This house is suitable for a large family.
8. His face reminds me of his father.
9. This rose differs from that.
10. He is very different from what I expected.

