



Study Sheet: Prepositions of Place & Movement

PREPOSITIONS OF PLACE

These describe **where** something is located.

Preposition	Meaning	Examples
in	Inside an enclosed space or area	<i>The keys are in the drawer.</i> <i>She lives in Paris.</i>
on	On a surface or attached to something	<i>The book is on the table.</i> <i>There's a picture on the wall.</i>
at	A specific point or location	<i>Meet me at the station.</i> <i>He's at home.</i>
under	Below something (directly beneath)	<i>The cat is under the bed.</i>
over	Above something (not touching)	<i>The plane flew over the city.</i>
above	Higher than something (general)	<i>The shelf is above the desk.</i>
below	Lower than something (general)	<i>Temperatures dropped below zero.</i>
between	In the middle of two things/people	<i>Sit between Sarah and Tom.</i>
among	Surrounded by a group (3+)	<i>She walked among the crowd.</i>
next to / beside	Adjacent to something	<i>The bank is next to the pharmacy.</i>
near	Close to something (not touching)	<i>The hotel is near the beach.</i>
by	Very close to / beside something	<i>She sat by the window.</i> <i>The house is by the lake.</i>
behind	At the back of something	<i>The garden is behind the house.</i>
in front of	Facing something, before it	<i>Wait for me in front of the cinema.</i>
inside	Within the interior of something	<i>It's cold outside—stay inside.</i>
outside	Not within something	<i>They're waiting outside the office.</i>

PREPOSITIONS OF MOVEMENT

These describe **direction** or **motion** from one place to another.

Preposition	Meaning	Examples
to	Direction toward a destination	<i>We're going to the park.</i>
into	Moving from outside to inside	<i>She walked into the room.</i>
out of	Moving from inside to outside	<i>He ran out of the building.</i>
onto	Moving onto a surface	<i>The cat jumped onto the roof.</i>
off	Moving away from a surface	<i>Take your feet off the table.</i>
across	From one side to the other	<i>Walk across the bridge.</i>
through	Entering and exiting the other side	<i>We drove through the tunnel.</i>
along	Following a path or line	<i>They strolled along the river.</i>
around	Moving in various directions or encircling	<i>We walked around the lake.</i>
up	Moving to a higher position	<i>She climbed up the stairs.</i>
down	Moving to a lower position	<i>The ball rolled down the hill.</i>
toward(s)	In the direction of something	<i>He walked toward the exit.</i>

Preposition	Meaning	Examples
away from	Moving in the opposite direction	Run away from danger.
past	Going beyond something	Drive past the supermarket.
by	Moving past / alongside something	He walked by the store. The car drove by quickly.

NOTES ON "BY"

"By" is unique because it works in **both** categories:

Use Case	Meaning	Example
Place	Very close to / beside	She stood by the door.
Movement	Passing near or alongside	I saw him walking by the park.
Method/Mean s	How something is done (not spatial)	I travel by train.
Agent	Who performed an action (passive voice)	The book was written by me.

Tip: For place/movement, "**by**" is similar to "**near**" or "**beside**", but often implies closer proximity.

COMMON PAIRS & CONTRASTS

Pair	Difference
in vs. into	<i>in</i> = static location (She's in the pool.) <i>into</i> = movement (She jumped into the pool.)
on vs. onto	<i>on</i> = static location (The cup is on the table.) <i>onto</i> = movement (Put the cup onto the table.)
at vs. to	<i>at</i> = specific location (Meet me at 5 PM.) <i>to</i> = direction (I'm going to London.)
above vs. over	<i>above</i> = general height (The clouds are above us.) <i>over</i> = directly above (Hold the umbrella over your head.)
beside vs. by	<i>beside</i> = next to (Sit beside me.) <i>by</i> = very close to (Stand by me.)
beside vs. besides	<i>beside</i> = next to (Sit beside me.) <i>besides</i> = in addition to (Besides John, who else came?)

QUICK MEMORY TIPS

1. **IN** = Enclosed spaces (countries, cities, rooms, containers)
2. **ON** = Surfaces (tables, walls, floors, streets)
3. **AT** = Specific points (addresses, events, times)
4. **BY** = Very close to / beside / passing near
5. **TO/INTO** = Movement toward or entering
6. **THROUGH** = Entry + exit (tunnels, crowds, doors)
7. **ACROSS** = Side to side (bridges, roads, fields)

PRACTICE SENTENCES

Fill in the blanks with the correct preposition.

In, by/near, onto, through, at/by, along, over, in,into, beside/by

1. The cat jumped ____ the table.
 2. She lives ____ New York.
 3. Walk ____ the street and turn left.
 4. The keys are ____ my bag.
 5. He ran ____ the room quickly.
 6. The plane flew ____ the mountains.
 7. Sit ____ me during the meeting.
 8. We drove ____ the forest.
 9. She waited ____ the bus stop.
 - 10.The boat floated ____ the shore.
-