

ENGLISH PREPOSITIONS

LIST

150
prepositions

INCLUDING
370 sample sentences
200 quiz questions
with answers
illustrated

JOSEF ESSBERGER

behind
below
beneath
beside
besides
between
beyond
but (also conj.)
by
circa
concerning
considering
counting
date
during
except
excepting
excluding
following
for (also conj.)
from
given

English Prepositions List

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Introduction

This ebook contains a list of most English prepositions in use today.

The first section lists “one-word prepositions” (for example **before**, **into**, **on**). The second section lists “complex prepositions” (phrases of two or more words that function like one-word prepositions, for example **according to**, **but for**, **in spite of**).

The name “preposition” (pre + position) means “place before”. Prepositions usually come before another word, usually a noun or noun phrase:

- noun
- pronoun
- noun phrase
- gerund (verb in -ing form)

If a **preposition** does not come before **another word**, it is still closely linked to another word:

- **Who** did you talk **to**?
- **To whom** did you talk?
- I talked **to Jane**.

Many prepositions can also be adverbs:

- They are **in** the kitchen. **preposition**
- Please come **in**. **adverb**

A few prepositions can also be conjunctions:

- Everyone came **but** Tara. **preposition**
- I asked her **but** she didn't answer. **conjunction**

Abbreviations used in this ebook:

conj. = conjunction

UK = *mainly* British English

US = *mainly* American English

This ebook is written in British English.

Why 150 prepositions?

It is not possible to produce a definitive list of English prepositions. That means that nobody can create a list of prepositions and say: “Here are all the prepositions in the English language – no more and no fewer.” Why? Because complex prepositions can theoretically be added to the language at any time. This ebook lists all 94 one-word prepositions (which are unlikely to change or be added to) and 56 complex prepositions (which may possibly be added to as the language evolves). This total of 150 prepositions is comprehensive at the time of writing, and represents all the prepositions currently found in a good English dictionary such as the *Concise Oxford Dictionary*.

One-word Prepositions

- aboard**
- We went aboard the boat.
 - Is there a doctor aboard the plane?
- about**
- What do you think about Mary?
 - Let's talk about something different.
 - I've just read a book about President Kennedy.
 - The lion was pacing about its cage.
- above**
- We are flying above the clouds.
 - We live in the hills, 1,000 metres above sea-level.
 - It's only two degrees above freezing point. [+2°C]
 - Who came above you in the test results?
- across**
- We drove across the desert.
 - The dog ran across the road.
 - There is a bridge across the river.
- after** (also conj.)
- We had lunch [1pm] after the meeting [11am].
 - Let's meet the day after tomorrow.
- against**
- Did you vote for or against the suggestion?
 - He put his bicycle against the wall.
- along**
- We walked along the beach for two miles.
 - There are trees along the road.
 - The toilet is along the corridor.
- alongside**
- Their boat came alongside our boat.
 - Team A worked alongside Team B during construction.
- amid**
amidst (poetic)
- I couldn't hear her amid the noise.
 - We were lost amidst the trees.

One-word Prepositions

- among**
amongst (UK)
- Is there a doctor among us?
 - There were secret police among the crowd.
 - I was amongst strangers. I didn't know anyone.
- anti**
- He seems to be anti my idea.
 - Some people are anti everything.
- around**
- We walked around the town for an hour.
 - They all sat around the camp fire.
 - There is a big fence around the house.
 - He was born around 1570.
 - Let's meet around 7pm.
- as** (also conj.)
- He is working as a waiter.
 - The risk is as nothing compared to the profit.
 - Ram is as tall as Anthony.
- astride**
- She sat astride the horse.
- at**
- He is at school.
 - We first met at a party.
 - Let's start the meeting at 9 o'clock.
 - He started work at 17 (years of age).
 - We are aiming at sales of \$1,000,000.
- atop** (poetic)
- The church is situated atop a hill.

One-word Prepositions

- bar**
- Everyone came bar Angela.
 - He is the best bar none.
- barring**
- Barring rain, we'll play tennis tomorrow.
- before** (also conj.)
- We had lunch [1pm] before the meeting [3pm].
 - We met the day before yesterday.
 - She was before me in the queue.
 - I would rather die before doing that.
- behind**
- There is a police car behind us. It's following us.
 - We have a garden behind our house.
 - The child was hiding behind the tree.
 - I am behind your project. I will support it.
 - Vonica finished behind Shirley in the race.
 - She is behind the other children in her class.
- below**
- Much of Holland is below sea-level.
 - There is a family in the flat below us.
 - The temperature is 5 degrees below freezing point. [-5°C]
 - I came below Vonica in the test.
 - You can buy it if it's below \$50.
- beneath**
- Our garage is beneath our house.
 - The tunnel runs beneath the sea.
 - Laurence is beneath the General Manager.
 - It was beneath his dignity to do that.
- beside**
- The river runs beside our house.
 - James was sitting beside Miriam.
- besides**
- What shall we have besides coffee?

between

- Tara was sitting between Ram and Ati.
- Between you and me, I think she's crazy.
- I can meet you between 1pm and 2pm.

beyond

- Can you see someone in the distance, beyond that house?
- This is too difficult. It's beyond me.
- The meeting continued beyond midnight.

but (also conj.)

- Everyone came but Andrea.

by

- We came by car.
- Fireworks were invented by the Chinese.
- He was shot by a professional killer.
- It happened by accident.
- He lost the race by five seconds.
- The room is 10 metres by 6 metres.
- We must finish by Tuesday.
- We were sitting by the window.
- By my calculation he must be 73.

One-word Prepositions

- circa**
- He died circa 1270.
- concerning**
- Your teacher talked to me concerning your homework.
 - I have some questions concerning your decision.
- considering**
- Considering the poor quality, I think the price is too high.
 - I think I must be going, considering the time.
- counting**
- There were four people, or five counting the baby.
 - That makes \$70, not counting the tax.
- cum**
- I have a study-cum-bedroom.
 - She is a kind of secretary-cum-receptionist.

despite

- We went swimming despite the cold water.
- He passed the test despite being ill.

down

- They ran down the hill.
- The post office is down the road.
- They have had many wars down the years.

during

- He fell asleep during the meeting.
- I want to go swimming during the weekend.
- I was bored during the whole film.

except

- You can have any colour except blue.
- They all came except Stephen.

excepting

- I can eat anything excepting pork.
- Excepting Jo, everyone was present.

excluding

- It costs \$70, excluding \$10 for delivery. (Total = \$80.)
- We open every day excluding Christmas Day.

following

- We had coffee following lunch.
- He couldn't work following his illness.

for (also conj.)

- This is for you.
- Do you want to go for a walk?
- You use a corkscrew for opening bottles.
- Cigarettes are bad for you.
- I'm saving for a new car.
- Is this the road for Rome?
- They passed me over for John.
- Is this the train for Cambridge?
- I bought it for \$10.
- We worked for three hours.
- Keep walking for two kilometres.

from

- Where do you come from?
- This letter is from my wife.
- I bought this car from Henry.
- They prevented me from entering.
- My car is different from yours.
- We worked from Monday to Wednesday.
- Paper is made from wood.
- It can cost anything from \$5 to \$15.
- The police took my driving licence from me.
- He died from overwork.

given

- He is in very good health, given his age.
- Given the time, you ought to leave now.

gone (UK)

- It's certainly gone 11 o'clock. It must be 11.30.
- He's gone 50. He must be nearly 60 years old.

in

- Monkeys live in the jungle.
- John is the man with his hand in his pocket.
- I live in an apartment.
- She lives in Bangkok.
- Tara was born in 1977.
- Trains were invented in the nineteenth century.
- I'll come back in two weeks.
- Let's meet in the morning.
- There are 60 seconds in a minute.

including

- The price is \$70 including \$10 for delivery. (Total = \$70.)
- There were four of us, including the baby.

inside

- It was dark inside the tunnel.
- My modem is inside my computer. It's an internal modem.

into

- John went into that shop.
- If you heat ice it turns into water.
- We cut the cake into ten pieces.
- Five into ten makes two.

less

- 10 less 3 = 7.

like

- She is like her sister.
- She sings like a bird.
- It's not like John to complain.
- Do it like this.
- I feel like swimming.
- It looks like rain.
- I want something cold, like iced-coffee.

minus

- 10 minus 3 = 7.
- The temperature is minus 30 degrees centigrade.

near

- The school is near the post office.
- It's 20 December. We are very near Christmas Day.

notwithstanding

- Notwithstanding the low price, I don't want it.
- They went swimming, notwithstanding the rain.
- They went swimming, the rain notwithstanding.

- of**
- I live in the house at the end of the road.
 - Where is the key of the car?
 - Do you like the work of Shakespeare?
 - What was the cost of this book?
 - He lives in the City of Westminster.
 - It was kind of you to help me.
 - This is the cause of the problem.
 - He died of cancer.
 - Most tables are made of wood.
 - Can I have a cup of coffee?
 - I know some of these people.
 - I don't know any of these people.
 - He lives south of London.
 - He lives in the south of London.
- off**
- Please take your shoes off the table.
 - Keep off the grass.
 - It fell off the table and broke.
 - They live in a street off Fifth Avenue.
- on**
- Please don't put your shoes on the table.
 - The picture is on page 7.
 - We live on a busy road. It's very noisy.
 - She is sunbathing on the beach.
 - Is there water on the Moon?
 - I need a book on bio-chemistry.
 - My birthday is on Monday.
 - I start work on 7 May.
 - Let's meet on the weekend. (US)
 - I'll see you on Christmas Day.
 - You must be on time.
 - He broke his leg on getting out of the car.
- onto (US)**
- The cat jumped onto the chair.
- see on to**
- The police are onto us. (slang)

opposite

- There is a post office opposite my house.
- She sat opposite him and looked into his eyes.

outside

- I don't live in London. I live outside London.
- It was very cold outside the car.
- This is outside my scope.

over

- We are flying over the mountains.
- Put the blanket over the bed.
- The cat jumped over the wall.
- Let's discuss it over dinner.
- The king ruled over the country for many years.
- The town is just over the border.
- It cost over \$50. It was \$53.25.
- There is rain over the whole country.
- It took over an hour to do my homework.
- The population has increased over the past twenty years.
- Can you stay with us over Christmas?

past

- I saw you yesterday when we drove past your school.
- The post office is just past the police station.
- Don't work past your bed-time.
- This is difficult. It's past me.
- It's nearly ten minutes past five. 5.09 to be precise.

pending

- We cannot supply you pending payment.
- Pending his return, we can do nothing.
- There were many arguments pending the negotiations.

per

- The speed limit is 70 miles per hour.
- The carpet costs \$10 per square metre.

plus

- 2 plus 2 = 4.
- There will be three of us, plus the baby.

pro

- Are you pro capital punishment?
- He is generally pro new ideas.

re

- Re: your letter dated 21 May
- I want to talk you re the proposed meeting.

regarding

- I would like to speak to you regarding my homework.
- Regarding John, let's talk later.

respecting

- I would like to speak to you respecting my homework.
- I am writing to you respecting our latest products.

round

- I live round the corner.
- They all sat round the fire.
- There is a hedge round the house.

- save** (formal)
- All save Mrs Jones were present.
- saving** (formal)
- Saving yourself, nobody thanked me.
- since** (also conj.)
- I haven't seen Josef since Monday.
 - Mr Brown has worked in a bank since 1985.

- than** (also conj.)
- He is a writer than whom there is no finer.
 - Your car is bigger than my car.
- through**
thru (US)
- The train goes through a tunnel.
 - I can see light through the keyhole.
 - You have been through a difficult experience.
 - You went through a red light.
 - The error occurred through my own stupidity.
 - They worked Monday through Thursday. [US]
- throughout**
- It is raining throughout the whole country.
 - He worked throughout the day, and most of the night.
- till** (also conj.)
- I work from 9am till 5pm.
 - Please wait till I come.
- to**
- Could you give this to Kob?
 - My car does 10 miles to the litre.
 - To his surprise, the door was open.
 - The museum is open from Monday to Friday.
 - The time is ten to five. [4.50]
- touching**
- Touching your homework, I think we need to speak.
- toward** (US)
towards (UK)
- He drove off toward(s) the mountain.
 - I'd better go. It's getting toward(s) midnight.
 - He contributed \$100,000 toward(s) the new building.
 - It's the first step toward(s) peace.
 - He has a positive attitude toward(s) his work.

under

- The mouse ran under the chair.
- The bucket is under the sink.
- Submarines can travel under water.
- We drove under a bridge.
- I have a T-shirt under my pullover.
- Who do you work under? Who is your boss?
- I am under orders from the President.
- What is the subject under discussion?
- Under the company rules, we can't do that.
- Please buy it if it's under \$50.

underneath

- The nurse put a pillow underneath his head.
- There is a big cellar underneath our house.

unlike

- That's very unusual. It's unlike Andrea to be so rude.
- This problem is unlike any we have met before.

until (formal, also conj.)

- They continued the meeting until 11pm.
- Please wait until I come.

up

- Jack and Jill ran up the hill.
- There is a post office up the street.

upon (formal)

- Please don't put your shoes upon the table.
- There are now no dinosaurs upon Earth.
- I need a book upon bio-chemistry.
- We met upon a Monday.
- He broke his leg upon getting out of the car.

versus

- He was the judge in the case of Gore versus Bush.
- We should choose peace versus war.

via

- We flew from Paris to Bangkok via Dubai.

with

- Do you live with your parents?
- He's been with EnglishClub.com for two years.
- I discussed it with her.
- With your permission, I'd like to go.
- If you mix red with yellow you get orange.
- Muriel is the girl with black hair.
- Do you want to come with us?
- I made this chair with my own hands.
- You'll forget her with time.

within

- There is a modem within the computer.
- I will finish within 30 minutes.
- He lives within 10 miles of his work.
- It's not within my power to help you.

without

- I want trousers without buttons.
- I came without my wife because she is working.
- He watched without speaking.

worth

- This car is worth \$10,000.

Complex Prepositions

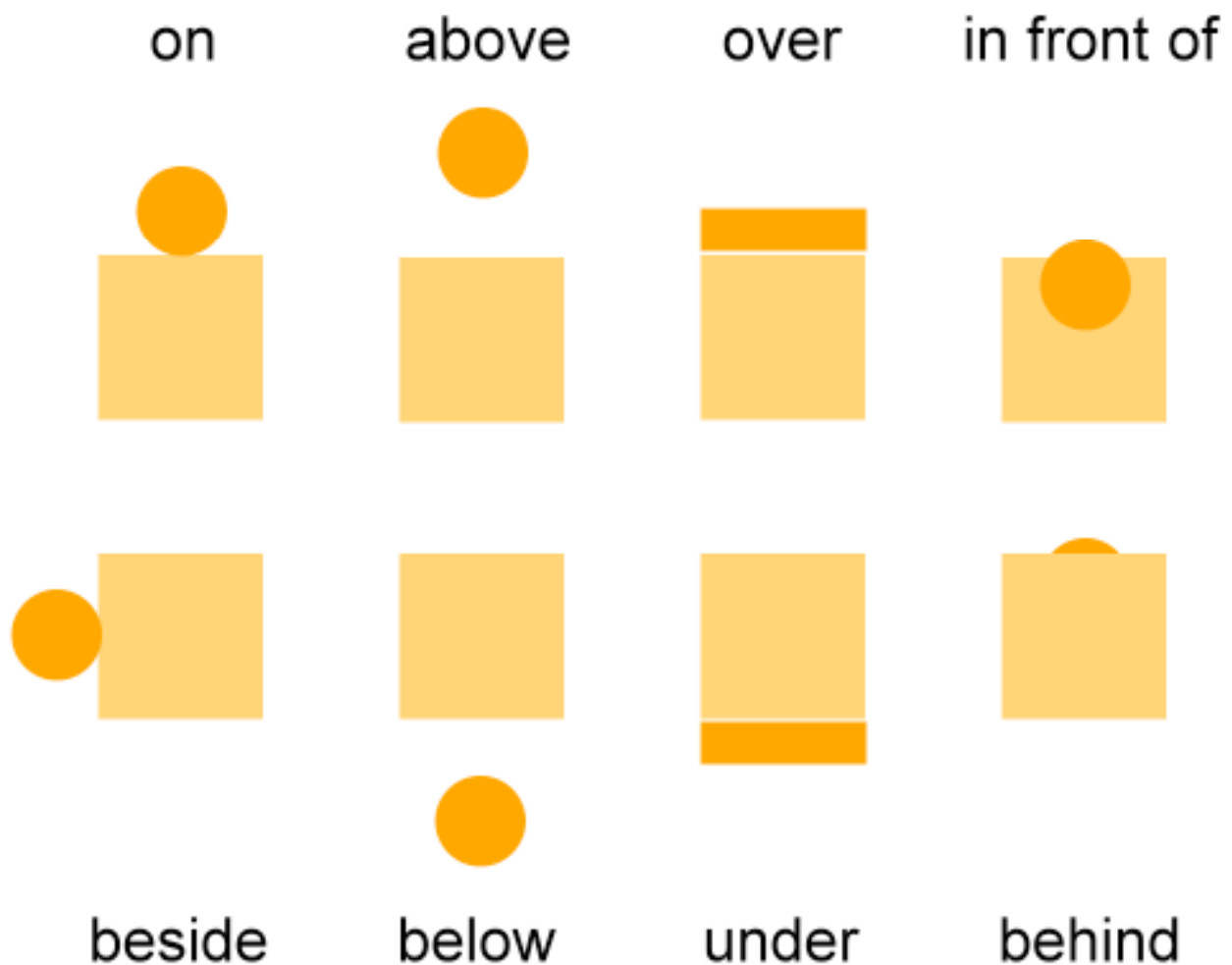
- according to** • According to John, Mary was late. I believe John.
- ahead of** • Anthony is ahead of Rachel in the race. He'll win.
• We have a long day ahead of us. Let's get going!
- à la (from French)** • It's a TV show à la CNN. Same style, similar content.
- along with** • Do you want some pork along with the chicken?
- apart from** • Nobody objected apart from you, so we did it.
- as for** • As for Matt, he will arrive later.
- aside from** • I have another car aside from this one. Both are red.
- as per** • We must work strictly as per the law.
- as to** • As to your behaviour, I think you were wrong.
- as well as** • You should telephone as well as write, just to be sure.
- away from** • The cat ran away from the dog and escaped.
- because of** • We can't play tennis because of the rain.
- but for** • It's your fault! But for you, I'd have been on time.
- by means of** • You open a door by means of its handle.
- close to** • My car is close to your car. About two cars away.
- contrary to** • Contrary to expectations, the euro fell in value.
- depending on** • We'll play tennis tomorrow, depending on the rain.

- due to**
- The cancellation was due to the rain. There was no other reason.
- except for**
- Everyone was present, except for Mary. She stayed at home.
- forward of**
- He was sitting forward of me in the plane. I could just see the back of his head.
- further to**
- Further to your letter, I have spoken to Mr Brown.
- in addition to**
- There were two people in addition to me. So that made three of us.
- in between**
- He is in between the two opinions. He wants to compromise.
- in case of**
- You can phone me in case of need. Day or night.
- in face of**
- He reacts bravely in face of danger.
- in favour of**
- I am not in favour of your idea. It won't work.
- in front of**
- You can park your car in front of my house.
 - I couldn't see the film because the woman in front of me was wearing a big hat.
- in lieu of**
- I don't have any dollars. Can I pay euro in lieu of dollars?
- in spite of**
- We went swimming in spite of the cold water.
- instead of**
- We don't have any tea. Would you like coffee instead of tea?
- in view of**
- In view of your illness, we will wait for a week.

irrespective of	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• I don't like it, irrespective of what you say.• Irrespective of the price, I don't want it. Price isn't everything.
near to	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There is a restaurant near to my office. Just two minutes away.
next to	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The school is next to the bank. Between the hotel and the bank.
on account of	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Don't worry on account of me. Think about yourself.
on behalf of	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• I'm calling you on behalf of Mr Brown. I represent him in legal matters.
on board	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Is there a doctor on board this plane?
on to (UK) see onto	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The cat jumped on to the chair.
on top of	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The cat is sitting on top of the television.
opposite to	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There is a tree opposite to the house. Straight across the road.
other than	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sorry, we're out of whisky. But we have every drink other than whisky.
out of	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Take your hands out of your pockets and help me!• He went out of the room to smoke a cigarette.• We're out of eggs. Shall I buy some?
outside of	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• They stopped outside of the city to check the map before entering.
owing to	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We didn't go swimming, owing to the cold weather.

preparatory to	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• I made a graph preparatory to the meeting, so everything was ready.
prior to	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• I never spoke French prior to living in France. But I learned quickly after coming to France.
regardless of	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• I don't want it, regardless of the price. Even if it's free, I just don't want it.
save for	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Everyone came, save for Lek who had to work.
thanks to	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Thanks to Shirley, we arrived on time.
together with	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• I'd like chicken please, together with vegetables.
up against	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We are up against a powerful enemy.
up to	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There was a shop here up to 1990. But it closed that year.
up until	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We worked up until they came. Then we stopped.
vis-à-vis (from French)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• I prefer Jaguar cars vis-à-vis BMW cars.• I need to speak to you vis-à-vis your homework.
with reference to	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• With reference to your comments, I'll reply soon.• I am writing with reference to your order.
with regard to	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• I'd like to speak to you with regard to your work.

Some Prepositions of Place



There is a cup **on** the table.

The helicopter hovered **above** the house.

The police placed a sheet **over** the body.

He stood **in front of** the door and rang the bell.

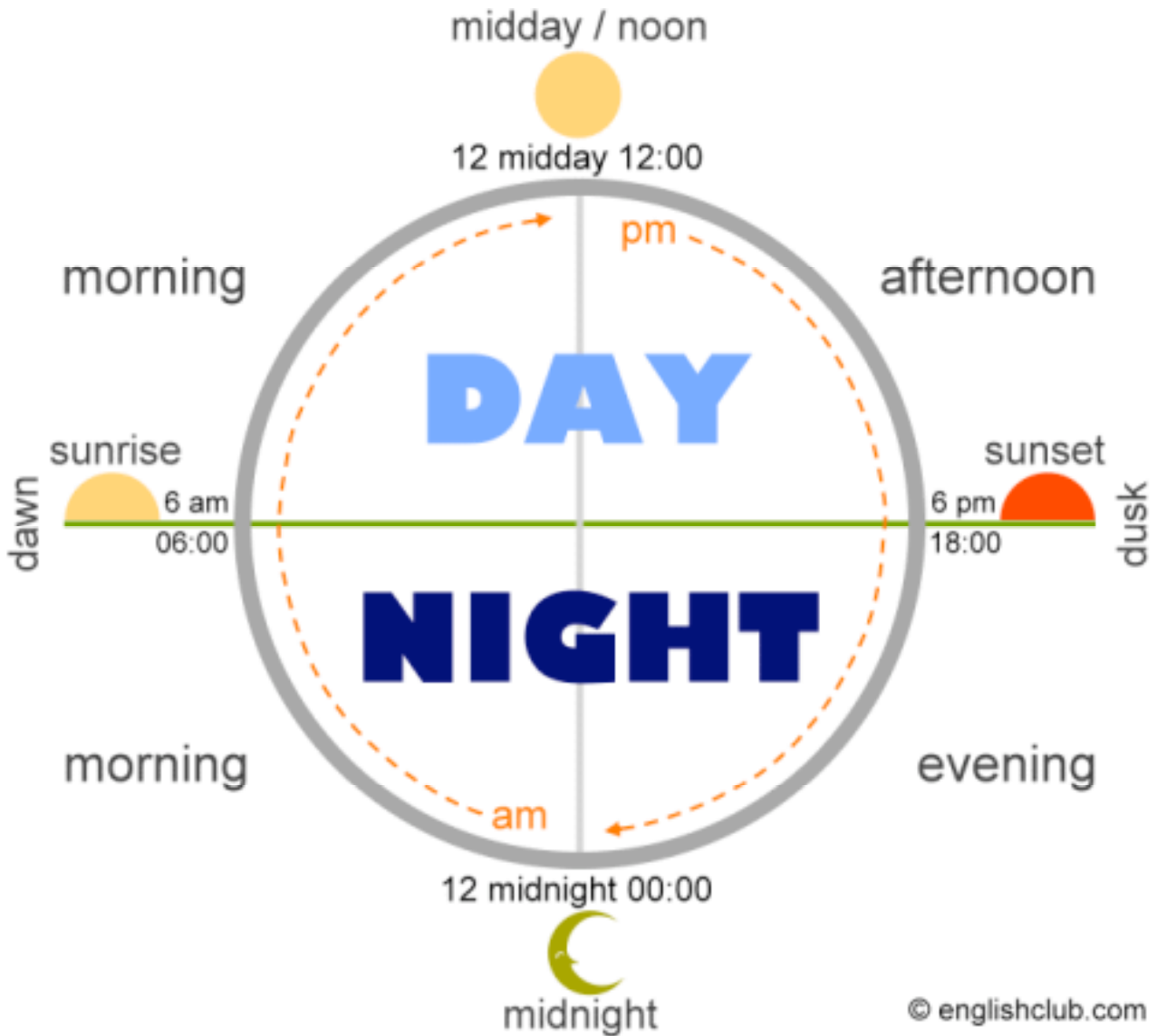
Ram sat **beside** Tara in the cinema.

A small stream runs **below** that bridge.

He put the key **under** the doormat.

He put his hands **behind** his back.

Some Prepositions of Time



He has coffee **in** the morning, tea **in** the afternoon and wine **in** the evening.

I work **during** the morning/afternoon/evening/day/night.

Let's meet **at** 6pm.

The clock strikes twelve **at** midday/noon/midnight.

The condemned man was shot **at** sunrise/dawn.

The street lights come on **at** sunset/dusk.

We can see the stars **at** night.

Quizzes

Try the quizzes on the following pages to check your understanding. In general there is only one possible answer to each question. The answers are shown at the end of each quiz.

- One-word prepositions
- Complex prepositions
- Prepositions of place
- Prepositions of time
- One-word and complex prepositions

If you like, you can use the chart below to record your progress. If you don't get 10 out of 10 for one quiz the first time, revise your prepositions and try again later a second time, and a third time if necessary!

Quiz		My Score out of 10		
		1 st time	2 nd time	3 rd time
1	One-word prepositions			
2	One-word prepositions			
3	One-word prepositions			
4	One-word prepositions			
5	One-word prepositions			
6	One-word prepositions			
7	One-word prepositions			
8	One-word prepositions			
9	One-word prepositions			
10	Complex prepositions			
11	Complex prepositions			
12	Complex prepositions			
13	Complex prepositions			
14	Complex prepositions			
15	Complex prepositions			
16	Prepositions of place			
17	Prepositions of time			
18	One-word and complex prepositions			
19	One-word and complex prepositions			
20	One-word and complex prepositions			

Quiz 1

One-word prepositions

Choose the most suitable preposition (a, b or c) to fill the blank.

- 1 10 _____ 3 = 7.
a) pro b) against c) less
- 2 2 _____ 2 = 4.
a) despite b) plus c) circa
- 3 All _____ Mrs Jones were present.
a) off b) save c) given
- 4 Are you _____ capital punishment?
a) outside b) pro c) without
- 5 _____ rain, we'll play tennis tomorrow.
a) Barring b) Over c) Plus
- 6 Did you vote for or _____ the suggestion?
a) throughout b) by c) against
- 7 Everyone came _____ Angela.
a) by b) bar c) during
- 8 Everyone came _____ Andrea.
a) but b) amid c) inside
- 9 _____ the time, you ought to leave now.
a) Given b) Astride c) Cum
- 10 He broke his leg _____ getting out of the car.
a) till b) like c) upon

Answers: 1c, 2b, 3b, 4b, 5a, 6c, 7b, 8a, 9a, 10c

Quiz 2

One-word prepositions

Choose the most suitable preposition (a, b or c) to fill the blank.

- 1 He couldn't work _____ his illness.
a) following b) by c) as
- 2 He died _____ 1270.
a) circa b) on c) outside
- 3 He fell asleep _____ the meeting.
a) circa b) during c) off
- 4 He passed the test _____ being ill.
a) despite b) inside c) behind
- 5 He seems to be _____ my idea.
a) since b) anti c) as
- 6 He was shot _____ a professional killer.
a) throughout b) with c) by
- 7 He was the judge in the case of Gore _____ Bush.
a) gone b) despite c) versus
- 8 He's _____ 50. He must be nearly 60 years old.
a) till b) by c) gone
- 9 I am _____ your project. I will support it.
a) despite b) behind c) unlike
- 10 I am writing to you _____ our latest products.
a) respecting b) inside c) cum

Answers: 1a, 2a, 3b, 4a, 5b, 6c, 7c, 8c, 9b, 10a

Quiz 3

One-word prepositions

Choose the most suitable preposition (a, b or c) to fill the blank.

- 1 I came _____ my wife because she is working.
a) outside b) amid c) without
- 2 I can eat anything _____ pork.
a) up b) excepting c) until
- 3 I couldn't hear her _____ the noise.
a) under b) amid c) pending
- 4 I don't live in London. I live _____ London.
a) outside b) since c) saving
- 5 I have a T-shirt _____ my pullover.
a) considering b) under c) of
- 6 I have some questions _____ your decision.
a) concerning b) inside c) up
- 7 I think I must be going, _____ the time.
a) opposite b) minus c) considering
- 8 I want to talk you _____ the proposed meeting.
a) re b) atop c) down
- 9 I would like to speak to you _____ my homework.
a) worth b) to c) regarding
- 10 I'd better go. It's getting _____ midnight.
a) down b) toward(s) c) as

Answers: 1c, 2b, 3b, 4a, 5b, 6a, 7c, 8a, 9c, 10b

Quiz 4

One-word prepositions

Choose the most suitable preposition (a, b or c) to fill the blank.

- 1 Is this the train _____ Cambridge?
a) over b) for c) astride
- 2 Is there water _____ the Moon?
a) on b) with c) up
- 3 It fell _____ the table and broke.
a) of b) off c) like
- 4 It is raining _____ the whole country.
a) throughout b) till c) via
- 5 It took _____ an hour to do my homework.
a) except b) on c) over
- 6 It was dark _____ the tunnel.
a) than b) inside c) on
- 7 It's 20 December. We are very _____ Christmas Day.
a) past b) near c) about
- 8 It's not _____ my power to help you.
a) within b) except c) with
- 9 Jack and Jill ran _____ the hill.
a) like b) with c) up
- 10 Mr Brown has worked in a bank _____ 1985.
a) alongside b) beside c) since

Answers: 1b, 2a, 3b, 4a, 5c, 6b, 7b, 8a, 9c, 10c

Quiz 5

One-word prepositions

Choose the most suitable preposition (a, b or c) to fill the blank.

- 1 Muriel is the girl _____ black hair.
a) plus b) outside c) with
- 2 _____ his return, we can do nothing.
a) Behind b) Pending c) Onto
- 3 Please wait _____ I come.
a) till b) since c) cum
- 4 Ram is as tall _____ Anthony.
a) as b) than c) with
- 5 _____ yourself, nobody thanked me.
a) Onto b) Considering c) Saving
- 6 She is a kind of secretary-_____receptionist.
a) cum b) inside c) at
- 7 She sat _____ the horse.
a) worth b) of c) astride
- 8 She sat _____ him and looked into his eyes.
a) opposite b) off c) at
- 9 She sings _____ a bird.
a) than b) like c) per
- 10 Tara was sitting _____ Ram and Ati.
a) from b) between c) worth

Answers: 1c, 2b, 3a, 4a, 5c, 6a, 7c, 8a, 9b, 10b

Quiz 6

One-word prepositions

Choose the most suitable preposition (a, b or c) to fill the blank.

- 1 Team A worked _____ Team B during construction.
a) alongside b) except c) throughout
- 2 That makes \$70, not _____ the tax.
a) within b) counting c) opposite
- 3 That's very unusual. It's _____ Andrea to be so rude.
a) opposite b) since c) unlike
- 4 The cat jumped _____ the chair.
a) less b) inside c) onto
- 5 The error occurred _____ my own stupidity.
a) like b) through c) throughout
- 6 The meeting continued _____ midnight.
a) beyond b) as c) unlike
- 7 The river runs _____ our house.
a) beside b) up c) astride
- 8 The speed limit is 70 miles _____ hour.
a) per b) on c) around
- 9 The temperature is _____ 30 degrees centigrade.
a) less b) in c) minus
- 10 The tunnel runs _____ the sea.
a) over b) counting c) beneath

Answers: 1a, 2b, 3c, 4c, 5b, 6a, 7a, 8a, 9c, 10c

Quiz 7

One-word prepositions

Choose the most suitable preposition (a, b or c) to fill the blank.

- 1 There is a big cellar _____ our house.
a) until b) on c) underneath
- 2 There is a big fence _____ the house.
a) in b) cum c) around
- 3 There were four of us, _____ the baby.
a) including b) inside c) within
- 4 There were secret police _____ the crowd.
a) among b) concerning c) except
- 5 They all sat _____ the fire.
a) via b) down c) round
- 6 They continued the meeting _____ 11pm.
a) until b) in c) along
- 7 They ran _____ the hill.
a) aboard b) down c) worth
- 8 They went swimming, _____ the rain.
a) at b) minus c) notwithstanding
- 9 This car is _____ \$10,000.
a) counting b) worth c) unlike
- 10 This is difficult. It's _____ me.
a) until b) than c) past

Answers: 1c, 2c, 3a, 4a, 5c, 6a, 7b, 8c, 9b, 10c

Quiz 8

One-word prepositions

Choose the most suitable preposition (a, b or c) to fill the blank.

- 1 This is the cause _____ the problem.
a) on b) of c) off
- 2 _____ his surprise, the door was open.
a) To b) On c) At
- 3 _____ your homework, I think we need to speak.
a) Touching b) Aboard c) Behind
- 4 Trains were invented _____ the nineteenth century.
a) at b) since c) in
- 5 We are aiming _____ sales of \$1,000,000.
a) to b) at c) on
- 6 We are flying _____ the clouds.
a) above b) gone c) except
- 7 We cut the cake _____ ten pieces.
a) onto b) into c) above
- 8 We drove _____ the desert.
a) aboard b) across c) concerning
- 9 We flew from Paris to Bangkok _____ Dubai.
a) at b) between c) via
- 10 We had lunch _____ the meeting.
a) astride b) bar c) after

Answers: 1b, 2a, 3a, 4c, 5b, 6a, 7b, 8b, 9c, 10c

Quiz 9

One-word prepositions

Choose the most suitable preposition (a, b or c) to fill the blank.

- 1 We met the day _____ yesterday.
a) before b) despite c) versus
- 2 We open every day _____ Christmas Day.
a) excluding b) anti c) gone
- 3 We walked _____ the beach for two miles.
a) under b) along c) outside
- 4 We went _____ the boat.
a) since b) aboard c) worth
- 5 We worked _____ Monday to Wednesday.
a) in b) from c) at
- 6 What do you think _____ Mary?
a) about b) off c) via
- 7 What shall we have _____ coffee?
a) minus b) of c) besides
- 8 You can buy it if it's _____ \$50.
a) below b) among c) notwithstanding
- 9 You can have any colour _____ blue.
a) until b) to c) except
- 10 Your car is bigger _____ my car.
a) as b) than c) for

Answers: 1a, 2a, 3b, 4b, 5b, 6a, 7c, 8a, 9c, 10b

Quiz 10

Complex prepositions

Choose the most suitable preposition (a, b or c) to fill the blank.

- 1 _____ John, Mary was late. I believe John.
a) According to b) Further to c) Forward of
- 2 Anthony is _____ Rachel in the race. I think he'll win.
a) aside from b) ahead of c) on board
- 3 _____ Matt, he will arrive later.
a) As for b) Out of c) Up to
- 4 _____ your behaviour, I think you were wrong.
a) As per b) Up until c) As to
- 5 _____ expectations, the euro fell in value.
a) Next to b) In favour of c) Contrary to
- 6 Do you want some pork _____ the chicken?
a) along with b) out of c) thanks to
- 7 Don't worry _____ me. Think about yourself.
a) apart from b) on top of c) on account of
- 8 Everyone came, _____ Lek who had to work.
a) save for b) away from c) as for
- 9 Everyone was present, _____ Mary. She stayed at home.
a) in face of b) out of c) except for
- 10 _____ your letter, I have spoken to Mr Brown.
a) Forward of b) Further to c) Next to

Answers: 1a, 2b, 3a, 4c, 5c, 6a, 7c, 8a, 9c, 10b

Quiz 11

Complex prepositions

Choose the most suitable preposition (a, b or c) to fill the blank.

- 1 He is _____ the two opinions. He wants to compromise.
a) in between b) up to c) instead of
- 2 He reacts bravely _____ danger.
a) up until b) in face of c) further to
- 3 He was sitting _____ me in the plane.
a) on board b) out of c) forward of
- 4 I am not _____ your idea. It won't work.
a) in favour of b) thanks to c) away from
- 5 I am writing _____ your order.
a) away from b) up to c) with reference to
- 6 I don't have any dollars. Can I pay euro _____ dollars?
a) opposite to b) in lieu of c) in spite of
- 7 I don't like it, _____ what you say.
a) up against b) close to c) irrespective of
- 8 I don't want it, _____ the price. Even if it's free.
a) away from b) prior to c) regardless of
- 9 I have another car _____ this one. Both are red.
a) aside from b) out of c) by means of
- 10 I made a graph _____ the meeting, so all was ready.
a) except for b) on top of c) preparatory to

Answers: 1a, 2b, 3c, 4a, 5c, 6b, 7c, 8c, 9a, 10c

Quiz 12

Complex prepositions

Choose the most suitable preposition (a, b or c) to fill the blank.

- 1 I never spoke French _____ living in France.
a) in front of b) prior to c) depending on
- 2 I prefer Jaguar cars _____ BMW cars.
a) out of b) in case of c) vis-à-vis
- 3 I'd like chicken please, _____ vegetables.
a) because of b) on behalf of c) together with
- 4 I'd like to speak to you _____ your work.
a) up against b) in front of c) with regard to
- 5 I'm calling you _____ Mr Brown. I represent him.
a) on behalf of b) contrary to c) in between
- 6 _____ your illness, we will wait for a week.
a) In lieu of b) In view of c) Next to
- 7 Is there a doctor _____ this plane?
a) on board b) on top of c) but for
- 8 It's a TV show _____ CNN. Same style, similar content.
a) up to b) à la c) save for
- 9 It's your fault! _____ you, I'd have been on time.
a) But for b) As to c) In favour of
- 10 My car is _____ your car. About two cars away.
a) on behalf of b) close to c) up until

Answers: 1b, 2c, 3c, 4c, 5a, 6b, 7a, 8b, 9a, 10b

Quiz 13

Complex prepositions

Choose the most suitable preposition (a, b or c) to fill the blank.

- 1 Nobody objected _____ you, so we did it.
a) apart from b) opposite to c) as well as
- 2 Sorry, no whisky. But we have every drink _____ whisky.
a) up against b) other than c) as per
- 3 Take your hands _____ your pockets and help me!
a) ahead of b) out of c) due to
- 4 _____ Shirley, we arrived on time.
a) Out of b) Thanks to c) On board
- 5 The cancellation was _____ the rain. No other reason.
a) close to b) on to c) due to
- 6 The cat is sitting _____ the television.
a) on top of b) on to c) as well as
- 7 The cat jumped _____ the chair.
a) in case of b) other than c) on to
- 8 The cat ran _____ the dog and escaped.
a) away from b) thanks to c) with regard to
- 9 The school's _____ the bank. Between the hotel and bank.
a) in front of b) next to c) on account of
- 10 The woman _____ me was wearing a big hat.
a) further to b) as to c) in front of

Answers: 1a, 2b, 3b, 4b, 5c, 6a, 7c, 8a, 9b, 10c

Quiz 14

Complex prepositions

Choose the most suitable preposition (a, b or c) to fill the blank.

- 1 There is a restaurant _____ my office. Two minutes away.
a) except for b) near to c) preparatory to
- 2 There is a tree _____ the house. Straight across the road.
a) forward of b) in lieu of c) opposite to
- 3 There was a shop here _____ 1990. It closed that year.
a) up to b) aside from c) in face of
- 4 There were two people _____ me. So that made three.
a) as for b) on board c) in addition to
- 5 They stopped _____ the city to check the map.
a) but for b) outside of c) contrary to
- 6 We are _____ a powerful enemy.
a) up against b) save for c) on behalf of
- 7 We can't play tennis _____ the rain.
a) as for b) other than c) because of
- 8 We didn't go swimming, _____ the cold weather.
a) on behalf of b) owing to c) with reference to
- 9 We don't have any tea. Would you like coffee _____ tea?
a) out of b) instead of c) by means of
- 10 We have a long day _____ us. Let's get going!
a) up until b) ahead of c) but for

Answers: 1b, 2c, 3a, 4c, 5b, 6a, 7c, 8b, 9b, 10b

Quiz 15

Complex prepositions

Choose the most suitable preposition (a, b or c) to fill the blank.

- 1 We must work strictly _____ the law.
a) on board b) apart from c) as per
- 2 We went swimming _____ the cold water.
a) in spite of b) as well as c) in case of
- 3 We worked _____ they came. Then we stopped.
a) up until b) ahead of c) depending on
- 4 We'll play tennis tomorrow, _____ the rain.
a) on behalf of b) by means of c) depending on
- 5 We're _____ eggs. Shall I buy some?
a) out of b) in spite of c) owing to
- 6 _____ your comments, I'll reply soon.
a) On board b) By means of c) With reference to
- 7 You can park your car _____ my house.
a) in between b) save for c) in front of
- 8 You can phone me _____ need. Day or night.
a) in case of b) in front of c) up against
- 9 You open a door _____ its handle.
a) in spite of b) up to c) by means of
- 10 You should telephone _____ write, just to be sure.
a) as for b) as well as c) depending on

Answers: 1c, 2a, 3a, 4c, 5a, 6c, 7c, 8a, 9c, 10b

Quiz 16

Prepositions of place

Choose the most suitable preposition (a, b or c) to fill the blank.

- 1 Don't stand _____ the television. I can't see!
a) on b) in front of c) above
- 2 Come and sit _____ me so that I can hear you better.
a) beside b) under c) on
- 3 From the plane we could see people in the fields _____ us.
a) beside b) below c) above
- 4 You'll have to turn round to see it. It's _____ you.
a) behind b) in front of c) over
- 5 The dead man was lying _____ the ground.
a) behind b) in front of c) on
- 6 Careful you don't scratch the table! Better put a cloth _____ it.
a) above b) beside c) over
- 7 It's dark where the road goes _____ a railway bridge.
a) on b) behind c) under
- 8 He looked up at the ceiling _____ him.
a) above b) under c) below
- 9 You can sit _____ that chair. Nobody is sitting there.
a) in front of b) on c) above
- 10 The police car came first. The president was in the car _____ it.
a) behind b) on c) under

Answers: 1b, 2a, 3b, 4a, 5c, 6c, 7c, 8a, 9b, 10a

Quiz 17

Prepositions of time

Choose the most suitable preposition (a, b or c) to fill the blank.

- 1 Let's meet _____ the evening and then go for a drink.
a) at b) in c) behind
- 2 Does your boss visit the office _____ the morning or afternoon?
a) in b) at c) on
- 3 I like to get up _____ sunrise and go for a run.
a) at b) on c) in
- 4 It's very quiet in this street _____ the day.
a) during b) at c) beside
- 5 Does the sun rise _____ dawn or at dusk?
a) at b) in c) on
- 6 What do you normally do _____ the evening?
a) in b) at c) on
- 7 Mary starts work _____ 9.30am and finishes after 6pm.
a) in b) during c) at
- 8 The sun is usually highest _____ noon.
a) during b) in c) at
- 9 The traffic is very bad _____ the morning and afternoon.
a) at b) on c) during
- 10 Most people sleep _____ night but I have to work.
a) during b) at c) in

Answers: 1b, 2a, 3a, 4a, 5a, 6a, 7c, 8c, 9c, 10b

Quiz 18 One-word and complex prepositions

Choose the most suitable preposition (a, b or c) to fill the blank.

- 1 _____ Ati, the film was good. But in my opinion it was boring.
a) Except for b) From c) According to
- 2 I have all my books _____ my dictionary, which I left at home.
a) regardless of b) through c) except for
- 3 He ran very fast and won the race _____ 10 seconds.
a) by b) on c) instead of
- 4 Nok bought her book _____ \$20 but mine cost me \$25.
a) for b) in c) save for
- 5 Who did you buy it _____? Have they got any more?
a) of b) from c) out of
- 6 It's always your fault if you hit the car _____ you.
a) on board b) in front of c) since
- 7 The ticket costs \$5 _____ age. No special price for children.
a) inside b) close to c) regardless of
- 8 Their meal arrived, _____ a free bottle of wine.
a) astride b) according to c) together with
- 9 Oil doesn't mix _____ water. It stays separated.
a) with b) further to c) at
- 10 It was good _____ her to help. She has her own problems.
a) forward of b) off c) of

Answers: 1c, 2c, 3a, 4a, 5b, 6b, 7c, 8c, 9a, 10c

Quiz 19 One-word and complex prepositions

Choose the most suitable preposition (a, b or c) to fill the blank.

- 1 That's typical of Tina. It's just _____ her to complain.
a) like b) until c) concerning
- 2 I can't talk now. But we can talk about it _____ dinner tonight.
a) over b) on to c) within
- 3 Come _____ 9 o'clock. Any time from 8.30 to 9.30 is ok.
a) around b) throughout c) up to
- 4 If the sea rises, some countries will be _____ sea-level.
a) pending b) outside of c) below
- 5 Everybody came at 9am, _____ Neil who came at 10am.
a) apart from b) underneath c) up against
- 6 There is a good view from my hotel because it is _____ a hill.
a) in b) except c) on top of
- 7 She started to walk _____ the man, but he followed her.
a) down b) away from c) out of
- 8 They sat _____ each other in the cinema and held hands.
a) below b) next to c) via
- 9 There are 31 days _____ December.
a) in b) on c) into
- 10 I sat in the back, _____ the driver. Andrea sat in front.
a) in face of b) to c) behind

Answers: 1a, 2a, 3a, 4c, 5a, 6c, 7b, 8b, 9a, 10c

Quiz 20 One-word and complex prepositions

Choose the most suitable preposition (a, b or c) to fill the blank.

- 1 _____ the rain, they did not play tennis.
a) Worth b) Owing to c) On behalf of
- 2 Can I have fish _____ chicken? Chicken makes me sick.
a) across b) instead of c) together with
- 3 There were ten people _____ the meeting.
a) at b) on c) on board
- 4 The ticket is \$5 or \$10, _____ your age. How old are you?
a) above b) out of c) depending on
- 5 I work _____ Dr Hudson. I will have to ask him for permission.
a) since b) under c) as for
- 6 After his wife died he went _____ a very bad time.
a) with b) through c) preparatory to
- 7 There was a good film _____ television last night.
a) in b) as to c) on
- 8 You should take paper _____ a pen. They don't have either.
a) as b) as well as c) except for
- 9 Do I have to pay tax _____ this charge? Or is it included?
a) in addition to b) onto c) counting
- 10 I'm phoning _____ your recent order.
a) opposite b) in between c) with reference to

Answers: 1b, 2b, 3a, 4c, 5b, 6b, 7c, 8b, 9a, 10c

Ebooks for ESL Learners

English Prepositions List

by Josef Essberger

Top 20 Business Vocabulary

by Josef Essberger

CVs, Resumes and Covering Letters

by Josef Essberger

Phrasal Verbs in Context

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