



মিণ্ডাৰেঞ্চমণ্ডল আৰু জৰুৰীমণ্ডল (আৰু)

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (S)

Government of Manipur

**CLASS IX & X  
ENGLISH GRAMMAR  
PART I  
LESSON 15  
PREPOSITIONS**

**NOTES**

The **Prepositions** are generally small words but they are very important in the structure of sentences. Their correct use shows **the user's mastery of the English Language**. A **Preposition** is a word placed before a Noun or Pronoun to show its relationship to some other words in a sentence. The Noun or Pronoun before which a Preposition is placed is known as its **Object**. It is in the **Objective Case** and is said to be governed by the **Preposition**.

**Example:**

- a. The cat is *under* the table.
- b. He is known *to* me.

**I. The Position of Prepositions**

It has already been stated that a Preposition is usually placed before the Noun or Pronoun governed by it. However, a Preposition is placed after the word it governs in the following cases:

1. **The Preposition is placed at the end of the sentence when its Object is a Relative Pronoun.**  
**Example:** This is the book that you were asking *for*.
2. **The Preposition is also placed at the end of the sentence when its object is an Interrogative Pronoun.**  
**Example:** What are you looking *at*?
3. **Sometimes, the Object of the Preposition is placed first for the sake of emphasis.**  
**Example:** that I insist *on*.

**II. Objects of Prepositions**

A Preposition may have as its Object:

a. A Noun

**Example:** I dropped the stone *into* a pond.

b. A Pronoun

**Example:** I have come *with* her.

c. A Gerund

**Example:** *Before* his coming, they were happy.



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#### d. An Infinitive

**Example:** I can do nothing **but** (to) cry.

#### e. A Noun Clause

**Example:** We must be happy **with** what we have.

### III. Kinds of Prepositions

There are some classes or kinds of Prepositions. The following are the different classes:

1. **Simple Prepositions:** These Prepositions are short words with their own independent forms. These short and simple Prepositions have not been derived from any other words.

**Examples:**

after, at, by, for, from, in, of, on, through, till, under etc.

2. **Compound Prepositions:** These Prepositions are formed by adding some prefixes like *a, be, in, out* etc. to some Nouns, Adjectives or Adverbs.

**Examples:**

about, above, across, along, amidst, among, around, before, below, outside, within, without, inside etc.

3. **Participial Prepositions:** There are some Verbs in Present Participle which are used without any Nouns or Pronouns being attached to them. They function as Prepositions and are known as Participial Prepositions. The following are some of the examples of this type of Prepositions.

accepting, barring, notwithstanding, pending, respecting, regarding, concerning, touching etc.

4. **Double Prepositions:** Sometimes, two Prepositions form a group and function as a single Preposition. These are regarded as **Double Prepositions**.

**Examples:**

from among, from beneath, from under, from within, out of etc.

5. **Prepositional Phrases or Phrasal Prepositions:** There are groups of words which function as **Single Prepositions**. These groups of words are known as **Prepositional Phrases** or **Phrasal Prepositions**.

**Examples:**

by dint of, in fear of, on behalf of etc.



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#### **IV. Relations shown by Prepositions**

As has been stated before Prepositions show various kinds of relation in the sentences. The following are some of the most common relations shown by **Prepositions**.

**1. Place**

**Example:** The boy runs **across** the road.

**2. Time**

**Example:** They came **in** the evening.

**3. Method and Manner**

**Example:** The letter came **by** post.

**4. Cause, Reason and Purpose**

**Example:** The child died **of** cancer.

**5. Possession**

**Example:** Imphal is the capital **of** Manipur.

**6. Measure, Standard, Rate and value**

**Example:** Sugar is sold **by** the kilo.

**7. Contrast, Concession**

**Example:** **For** all his wealth, he is not happy.

**8. Source, Origin Motive, Inference**

**Example:** This line is a quotation **from** the Bible.

**9. Direction and Motion**

**Example:** The boy fell **into** the well.

#### **V. Some Prepositions in Common use:**

**1. Prepositions indicating time: at, on, in, during, for, since etc.**

**Examples:** at sunset, on Monday, in the morning, by Sunday, for one day, since yesterday etc.

**2. Prepositions of Place: at and in**

**Examples:** at home, in a country etc.

**3. Prepositions of Time and Movement: by, on, from etc.**

**Examples:** by bus, on foot, from Delhi to Kolkata etc.



## VI. Correct use of some Prepositions:

The following are hints about the correct use of some common Prepositions.

- Beside, besides:** 'Beside' means by the side of but 'besides' means in addition to.
- At, in:** 'At' is used when referring to small places like towns and villages but 'in' is used for referring to large places like big cities and countries.
- At, in:** While speaking about time, 'at' denotes an exact point of time and 'in' denotes a period of time.
- On, upon:** There is no explicit difference between 'on' and 'upon'. But 'on' is generally used about something/someone at rest and 'upon' is sometimes used about things in motion.
- After, behind:** 'After' refers to time, order or position whereas 'behind' refers to place.
- In, within, before:** 'In' refers to the end of a period of time, 'within' denotes the time before the end of a certain period and 'before' refers to a period of time before a certain point of time.
- Between, among:** 'Between' is used generally when we refer to two persons but 'among' is used when we refer to more than two persons or things.

**VII. Appropriate Prepositions:** Certain Verbs, Nouns, Adjectives and Participles are always followed by some particular Prepositions which are known as **Appropriate Prepositions**. More than one Preposition can be used with these certain words.

**Examples of some of them are:**

Appropriate Prepositions	Appropriate Prepositions
According to	Abide by
Angry with	Approve of
Blind to	Beware of
Boast of	Born in
Comply with	Congratulate on
Consist of	Compare with
Dispose of	Dispense with
Exempt from	Enquire of
Guilty of	Good at
Hinder from	Hanker after
Quarrel over	Refrain from
Sensitive to	True to
Yield to	Zest for

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