

S.S.L.C. SECOND LANGUAGE- ENGLISH- GRAMMAR SECTION

PREPOSITIONS

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A Preposition tells us the relationship between a noun or a pronoun and another word in a sentence.

There are mainly three types of prepositions.

Prepositions of place, Prepositions of time, and Prepositions of direction.

Prepositions of place: They speak about the position or place of a noun or a pronoun

in, under, below, on, in front of, behind, beside, over, by, between, next to, opposite, above,.....

[A note on 'in' and 'at': 'in' is used for large areas and 'at' is used for a small area or the exact area.

e.g.: My uncle lives at Basavanagudi in Bangalore.]

e.g.: There is much dust *in* the room. [a covered area.]

Swami decided to sleep *under* the bench.

Tomorrow the temperature will be *below* the freezing point.

Keep the books *on* my table.

My house is just *in front of* the Post Office.

We stood one *behind* the other to get sweets.

He was standing *beside* the statue. (= by the side of)

[Don't get confused with 'besides' which means 'in addition to']

The eagle flew *over* the temple.

The teacher asked her to stand *by* the door.

Sarita was sitting *between* Smitha and Sanvika.

My uncle's tea shop is *next to* the Police Station.

The plane was flying *above* the clouds.

Prepositions of time:

on, at, in, for, since, by, before, after, from, during, till, to

[‘at’ refers to an exact time, and ‘in’ refers to a larger time. e.g.: at 4 p.m., in July]

There will be no classes *on* Monday.

We had good rains *in* July.

The function starts *at* 4 p.m.

We will have prepared 250 plates *by* this evening.

They have been playing tennis *for* an hour.

They have been playing tennis *since* 3 p.m.

[Note: We use 'for' to describe the duration, and 'since' to describe the starting point.]

You should finish the work *before* evening.

Wednesday comes *after* Tuesday.

We received a letter *from* the Tahshildar.

There will be no classes *during* the Dasara.

Wait *till* 4 O'clock.

Sir, we have been reading *since* 2 O'clock.

My father works in the fields *from* morning *to* evening.

Prepositions of direction:

up, down, out of, into, along, through, across, over, under,

e.g.: My mother put the cake *into* the oven.

The beggar was walking *along* the road.

Don't throw stones *at* the dog.

The boat was moving *across* the river..

The king came *down* the steps to welcome the Panditji.

The child ran *across* the road.

The thief escaped *through* the tunnel.

Some other prepositions:

Tenali Raman was rewarded **by** Akbar.

Both **of** them went into the temple.

She has decided to go to England **for** higher studies.

Ashwath is good **at** singing.

The farmer bought a cow **for** Rs. 25000.

At least twenty soldiers were killed **in** the attack.

We thought **of** a plan to escape punishment.

It is our duty **of** everyone to make our proud.

Some fixed prepositions:

He was *looking at* the bird happily.

Smitha was *listening to* the music.

We *decided to* halt there for the night.

She was *fond of* singing.

I *prefer* tea *to* coffee.

The girl *fell in* love with Shankar.

Why are you *laughing at* me?

Questions from old question papers:

1. K.R.S. dam has been constructedthe river Kaveri. [March 2020]

Ans: K.R.S. dam has been constructed across the river Kaveri.

2. Ramesh was confinedbed because of fever. [Sept 2020]

Ans: Ramesh was confined to bed because of fever.

3. The girl lookedher friend in disbelief. [March 2022]

Ans: The girl looked at her friend in disbelief.

4. The sun risesthe east. [Sept 2022]

Ans: The sun rises in the east.

5. Sudha is workinga company. [March 2023]

Ans: Sudha is working in a company.

6. The new teacher was happyher students. [Sept 2023]

Ans: The teacher was happy with her students.

7. Shivakumar walked along the roadhis dog. [March 2024]

Ans: Shivakumar walked along the road with his dog.

8. Sumit lived in Delhithree years. [March 2024]

Ans: Sumit lived in Delhi for three years.

9. You should take careyour health. [March 2024]

Ans: You should take care of your health.

10. Raghu goes to schoolfoot. [Model 2025]

Ans: Raghu goes to school on foot.

11. Harish went to Americahigher studies. [Model 2025]

Ans: Harish went to America for higher studies.

12. The king foughta sword in the war. [March 2025]

Ans: The king fought with a sword in the war.

13. I usually get up5 a.m. in the morning. [March 2025]

Ans: I usually get up at 5 a.m. in the morning.

14. Vijay has been sleepingthe last for hours. [March 2025]

Ans: Vijay has been sleeping for the last for hours.

15. Don't laughme. [Model 2026]

Ans: Don't laugh at me.

16. The dog jumpedthe river. [Model 2026]

Ans: The dog jumped into the river.

17. She studiedthree hours continuously. [Model 2026]

Ans: She studied for three hours continuously.

18. Children were waitingthe bus.

Ans: Children were waiting for the bus.

19. I have been learning music2022. [Preparatory 1. 2026]

Ans: I have been learning music since 2022.

Many students have confusion in using 'for' and 'since' as prepositions. The preposition 'for' indicates the duration of a work or action. But, the preposition 'since' points out the beginning point of an action or work. Usually these prepositions are used in Perfect Continuous tenses.

Many people use these prepositions wrongly:

Look at the following sentences: {wrong usages}

I have been living here since twenty years. (X)

She had been dancing since twenty minutes when her mother called her. (X)

This shop is under renovation since three weeks. (X)

India is an independent nation since seven and a half decades. (X)

Study the following:

since June (for seven months), since 2020 (for five years), since Monday (for five days), since 2 O'clock (for four hours) since I was born (for fifteen years), since India became independent (for eighty years) since 1900 (for more than a century) etc.

Note: Some prepositions are also used as conjunctions, connecting words or clauses.

We shall study them in the chapter 'LINKERS'.