

## PREPOSITIONS

Prepositions connect nouns and pronouns to other words in a sentence. The word group formed by the **preposition** and the noun or nouns following it is called a prepositional phrase.

*Mother picked me up after school. She came in her huge station wagon and waited right outside the gates.*

### Common Prepositions:

about	despite	on top of
above according to	down	out
across	during	out of
after	except	outside
against	except for	over
along	excepting	past
along with	for	regarding
among	from	round
apart from	in	since
around	in addition to	through
as	in case of	throughout
at	inside	till
because of	in spite of	to toward
before	instead of	under
behind	into	underneath
below	like	unlike
beneath	near	until
beside	next	upon
between	of	up to
beyond	off	with
by	on	within
concerning	onto	without

- **The use of the proper preposition is often idiomatic, which means it follows rules of usage, which are hard to pin down and not always logical. If you are not sure which preposition to use with a verb, look up the verb (not the preposition) in the dictionary.**

### ⊗Wrong

apologize about  
bored of  
capable to  
in search for  
independent from  
outlook of life  
similar with

### ☺Revised

apologize for  
bored with  
capable of  
in search of  
independent of  
outlook on life  
similar to

- **Two-word verbs (or phrasal verbs) often express a meaning that is idiomatic and thus cannot always be understood literally. If English is not your native language, you will**

**have to memorize the idiomatic usage of phrasal verbs. When in doubt, look up the verb (not the preposition) in the dictionary.**

**Some Common Two-Word Verbs** (If the second word can be separated from the verb, a pronoun is included in parentheses):

Add (it) up	To join, unite	Joan adds up her expenses.
Back out of	To make sense	What you are telling me does not add up.
Bring (it) on	To withdraw	The team backed out of the competition.
Bring (it) up	to cause to appear	Bring on dinner – we're hungry!
Burn (it) down	to make happen	The excitement brought on his heart attack.
Burn (it) up	to mention	Jim brought up the problem at the meeting.
Call for	to destroy by fire	The arsonist burnt down the house.
Call (it) off	to use up	Jogging burns up a lot of calories.
Call (him) up	to ask for, demand	The judge called for the jury's verdict.
Clean (it) up	to cancel	Laura called off the wedding.
Come across	to telephone	She called up her boyfriend.
Cross (it) out	to remove dirt	Mother forced Joe to clean up his room.
Cut (it) off	to find/meet by accident	I came across my gran's diary while cleaning up the attic.
Cut (it) out	to delete	Quickly, she crossed out the misspelling.
Cut (it) up	to separate, to sever	The doctors had to cut off his leg.
Drop (it) off	to remove by cutting	She cut his picture out of the newspaper.
Fall behind	slang: to stop	Cut out that noise!
Get around	to incise, to sever	Why did you cut up this piece of fabric?
Get by	to deliver	I will drop off the book at the library.
Get out of	to lag behind	I fell behind schedule after my illness.
Get through	to avoid; to move	He always gets around doing his homework.
Give (it) away	to succeed with minimal effort	He gets around well despite his crutches.
Go over	to avoid	He never does homework, so he only gets by in school.
Hand (it) in	to finish with difficulty	How did you get out of paying your taxes?
Keep on	to part with	The children were so excited, they barely got through dinner.
Keep (it) up	to examine	Bob gave away his old car.
Leave (it) out	to turn in, to deliver	Maria went over the memo carefully before she sent it off.
Look into	to continue	We handed in our essays at the end of class.
Look like	to continue	Keep on trying: you will succeed in the end!
Look out for	to omit	Keep up the good work!
Pass (them) out	to investigate	Because I left out the baking powder, the cake did not rise.
Put (it) off	to resemble	We need to look into this matter!
Put (it) on	to watch for	Griselda looks like her mother.
Run into	to distribute	Look out for bears when you're camping!
Show (it) off	to procrastinate	The teacher passed out the exams.
Show up	to start wearing	I cannot put off studying any longer!
Stay up	to meet by accident	Put on your bathing suit. We're at the beach.
Take (it) off	to display proudly	I ran into my boss at the supermarket.
Take (it) up	to appear	He is showing off his new car.
Try (it) out	to stay awake	He showed up at his sister's wedding.
Turn (it) up	to remove	The students stayed up studying all night.
Use (it) up	to start (a habit)	Take off the coat. It's hot in here.
	to experiment with	I took up tennis last summer.
	to increase	Carson tried out a new recipe.
	to consume	Turn up the volume so I can hear the song!
		Use up the rest of the toothpaste before you buy a new tube.