

Prepositions

A preposition is a word which shows the relationship between a noun or pronoun or other words in a sentence.

For example:	The boy sat at the table The girl hid under the bed The man is on the bus The family are in the car
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Some commonly used prepositions

to	against	between	for	on
aboard	about	among	beyond	opposite
towards	in	above	before	down
into	over	under	across	behind
during	near	past	up	after
beneath	except	off	through	within

Some commonly misused prepositions

For example:	Among:	Something is shared among several people
	Between:	Something is shared between two people
	Beside:	This means at the side of (The doctor stood beside the bed)
	Besides:	This means in addition to (Several people were there besides me)
	From:	One thing or person is different from another (Not different to or different than)
In:	This shows position in one place (I am in the shop)	
Into:	Shows movement from one place to another (I am going into the shop)	
Past:	This preposition is always used with a verb (I am driving past the shop)	

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More examples of correct use to note

For example:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ We waited for David to put on his football kit. ✓ The landlord waited on us during lunch. ✓ Many visitors went aboard the ship during the open day. ✓ Jane corresponds with Mary regularly. ✓ Jane speaks to Mary every day. ✓ Many people go to the beach during the summer. ✓ I am standing at the top of the stairs. ✓ I am at the counter in the shop.
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- **Whom is used if you mean him, her or them (but not he, she or they – for which you use who)**

For example:	<p>This is the man to whom the dog belongs (the dog belongs to him).</p> <p>Jean resembles her mother, from whom she gets her good looks (she gets her looks from her).</p> <p>David is a rude boy whom I dislike (I dislike him).</p> <p>The people to whom I refer are sitting over there (I am referring to them).</p>
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- **Have a go at inserting the correct word in the following:**

Task:	<p>There is the policeman to I handed the money.</p> <p>The briefcase contained the money was stolen.</p> <p>Where is the person job it is to collect the tickets?</p> <p>This is the pen I use to correspond him.</p> <p>Shall we wait her to sing?</p> <p>This cheese is different the one we had last week.</p>
Answers:	(from the top): whom, which/that, whose, with, for, from

References and further reading:

Adapted from: Richards, H. (1992) *Junior English revised*. Elsebury: Ginn.