

Prepositions

A preposition usually precedes a noun or pronoun called the object of the preposition. Together they form a prepositional phrase that modifies other words in a sentence.

preposition object
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 The children ran into the room and knelt before the fire.

Common Prepositions

about	below	during	opposite	toward
above	beneath	except	out	under
across	beside	for	over	underneath
after	besides	from	part	unlike
against	between	in	regarding	until
along	beyond	into	round	up
among	but	like	since	upon
around	by	near	than	with
as	concerning	next	through	within
at	considering	of	throughout	without
before	despite	off	till	
behind	down	on	to	

A note on phrases as prepositions: Prepositions may also consist of two or more words, for example according to, as well as, different from, in addition to, in front, in spite of, together with, with respect to.

Chart adapted from *The Ready Reference Handbook: Writing, Revising, Editing* (2nd Canadian Edition) by Jack Doods & Judi Jewinski.

The Preposition Pyramid

TIME

(AT) To indicate a specific time of noon, night

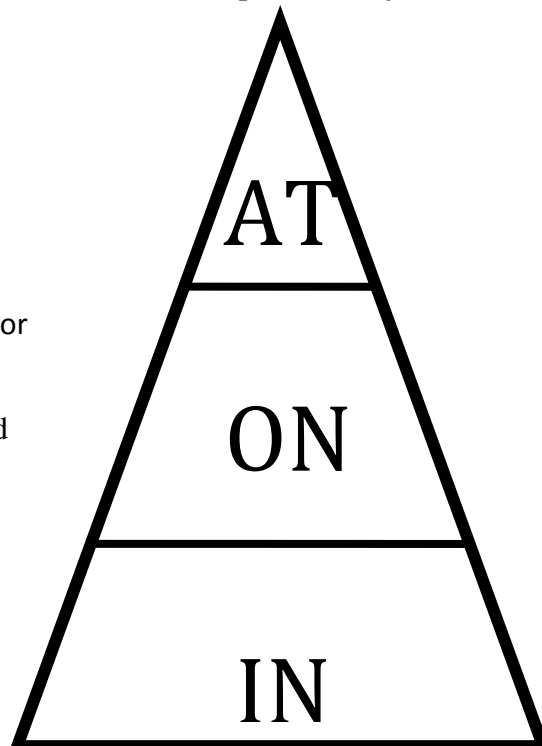
I will meet you at 8:30 a.m.
Lunch is at noon.

(ON) To indicate specific dates or days of the week

The Constitution Act was signed on April 17th, 1982.

(IN) To indicate year, century, month, morning, afternoon, or evening

Kim Campbell was our Prime Minister for 4 months in 1993.



PLACE

(AT) To indicate a specific complete address

Our Prime Minister lives at 24 Sussex Drive.

(ON) To indicate a street or island

The Prime Minister lives on Sussex drive.
I would love to live on the Easter Islands.

(IN) To indicate a continent, country, province, state, or city

I live in Canada, which is a country in North America.