

INTRODUCTION

PREPOSITIONS are words used in closed connection with, and usually before, nouns and pronouns to show their relation to another part of a clause. They are many prepositions in English: prepositions of time, prepositions of position and other else prepositions which are always used in some case.

Sometimes Prepositions can be confused with Postpositions so in our work, we will give you enough information about prepositions and postpositions in order to try to show you how to use correctly prepositions.

- **PREPOSITIONS OF TIME**

Prepositions of time are generally used to indicate the time, the duration, the period where something has been done or is done or will be done. The following table shows some prepositions of time and the different ways where you can use it.

Prepositions of time

Preposition		Use	Examples
English	French		
in	en	in months	in July ; in September
		year	in 1985 ; in 1999
		seasons	in summer; in autumn
	Le/la/l'	part of the Day	in the morning; in the afternoon; in the evening
	Dans	Duration	in a minute; in two weeks
	Au	Century	In the 18 th century;
at	Du	part of the Day	11 o'clock at night
	à	time of Day	at 6 o'clock; at midnight
		celebrations	at Christmas ; at Easter
	Au	fixed phrases	at the same time
	à / au	These expressions always are with used at	At present, at the age of, at the same time
on		days of the week	on Sunday; on Friday
	Le	date	on <i>the 25th of</i> December
	Le/à	special holidays	on Good Friday; on Easter Sunday; on my birthday

	Le	a special part of a day(dates, days exacts)	on the morning of September <i>the</i> 11th*
after	après	Later than something.	After school
ago	Il y a	How far something happened (in the past)	6 years ago
before	avant	Earlier than something.	before Christmas
between	entre	time that separates two points	between Monday and Friday
by	D'ici	not later than a special time	by Thursday
during	Pendant	through the whole of a period of time	during the holidays
for		period of time	for three weeks
from ... to from... till/until	De...à/ De... jusqu'à	two points form a period	from Monday to Wednesday from Monday till Wednesday from Monday until Wednesday
Past	Et/après /plus de	time of the day	23 minutes past 6 (6:23) It's past 7'oclock
since	depuis	point of time	since Monday
till/until	Jusqu'à	no later than a special time	till tomorrow until tomorrow
to	moins	time of the day	23 minutes to 6 (5:37)
within	En moins de	Not beyond the time	within a day

- PREPOSITIONS OF POSITION

Prepositions of position are generally used to indicate where something or somebody is. This table gives some prepositions of position and the ways where you can use it.

Prepositions of place

Preposition		Use	Examples
English	French		
in	dans	Indicating that something or somebody is inside something.	Look at that girl swimming in the water.
	à/en	Before town, country, village	In Abidjan; in England
	dans	With buildings	You can stay in a hotel.
at	à/au à/au	To indicate general position or location.	Conference at school
	à/au	To talk about an event and where that event take place.	At a party; at a football game. The meeting took place at Aubino's company.
	à/au	With buildings	You can eat at a restaurant.
On / Upon (formal)	Sur/ au dessus de	to indicate a position above and in contact	Sitting in the Bed. On the floor; On the ground; On the ceiling.

		with the surface of something else	
	à	To indicate a direction.	On the left ; On the right
In back of	derrière	Close to the back of something	I was sitting in the back of the car when we crashed.
In front of	devant	close to the front of something	The car is in front of the truck.
between	entre	indicating an intermediate point between two places	She travels between Oxford and Birmingham most days.
To	à	Indicate place after verb of movement (go, come, fly...)	I go to school.
Within	à moins de	Not beyond the distance	Within 4 yards.
Across	De l'autre côté de	Indicating that somebody or something is on the opposite side of something or moves or reaches from one side to the other.	bored a hole across the wall.
Through	À travers	a grammatical word used to indicate movement from one side or end of something to or past the	I walk through the forest.

		other side or end	
--	--	----------------------	--

- **PARTICULAR CASES FOR PREPOSITIONS**

We usually use some prepositions after (or before) some nouns, adjective and verbs.

Case 1: Noun + Preposition

-A **check For** (a sum of money). (EX: they sent me a check for 100 000 cfa.)

-a **demand/need/reason + for** (something). (EX1: the company closed down because there wasn't enough demand for its product .EX2 : the train was late but no one knew the reason for the delay .)

-**advantage/disadvantage/cause/picture + of**. (EX: photograph of ,picture of ,cause of...)

-**relation/connection/contact + with**. (EX : Do you have a good relationship with your parents ?)

-**a rise / an increase / a fall / a decrease + IN** something. (Ex: Aubin jogs every morning. So he **increases in** endurance).

-**solution TO** a problem/ an **answer TO** a question/
a **reply TO** a letter/ a **key TO** a door/ a **reaction TO** something

Case 2: Preposition + Noun

-By check, by accident, by mistake, by chance, a play by Shakespeare, a painting by Rembrandt.

-in my opinion, in cash ...

-on fire, on the phone, on television, on a diet, on strike, on vacation, on business...

-for a walk, for a swim, for my vacation, for breakfast, for lunch...

Case 3: Adjective + preposition

-Angry/annoyed/furious + **ABOUT** (something) or **WITH** someone **FOR** doing something...

-Good/excellent/bad + **at** (something)

-**sorry about** something; **sorry for doing something**

-**interested in** (something)

-**responsible for** something

-**tired of** something

-**similar to** something

-**fond of** someone/something

Case 4: Verb + Preposition

-Apologize (to someone) for something...

-Believe in something

-Consist of something

-depend on (something or someone)

-meet with someone

-fall in love with someone

-listen to someone or something

-wait for someone or something

- **POSTPOSITIONS- PHRASAL VERBS**

The Postpositions or adverbial particles are adverbs, prepositions or both which are combined with verbs in order to give an idiomatic meaning that is often quite different from the literal meaning of the individual words.

The verb and the postposition form a new verb named **PHRASAL VERB**. Compare:

e.g.: **To drive in** a nail. (To drive in = enfoncer)

≠ To drive in England. (To drive in =conduire en)

When the phrasal verb has an object there are two possible positions for the object. So you can say:

e.g.: I **turned off** the light. Or I **turned** the light **off**.

When the object is a pronoun he goes before on/off/in/out/up/down, etc.

e.g.: Don't **wake** her **up**.

When we use a phrasal verb + preposition (look forward *to* or keep up *with* ...) the object always comes after the prepositions.

e.g.: Are you **looking forward** *to* your vacation?

The following table gives you some PHRASAL VERBS and their meaning in French.

PHRASAL VERBS

Phrasal verbs		Examples
A	Meaning in French	
agree to	Etre d'accord avec quelque chose.	I wish she would agree to my proposal.
agree with	Etre d'accord avec quelqu'un.	I agree with him on that point.
ask after	Demander des nouvelles de...	Mr. Smith asked after John.
B		
Back away	S'éloigner à reculons	Tom backs away from the Lion.
Back burner	Mettre en veille	Djama backs burner his computer.
Back down	Faire marche arrière	The taxi man backs down
Back off	Reculer	
Back out	Se dégager	
Bear out	Conformer	
Beaver away	Bosser dur	
black out	S'évanouir	And then she just blacked out .
blow up	Exploser	The bomb might have blown up .
break away break free break loose	S'échapper	At last, the hostage could break away from his captors.
break up	Rompre / Casser	Sue and Tim broke up last year.
Bring about	Amener / Causer	This year has brought along some significant changes.
bring down	Faire tomber / Faire baisser	(1) Taxes were never brought down . (2) The president was brought down by this scandal.
bring in	Rapporter	My job brings in 400 dollars per week.
but in	Intervenir	How can we talk when you keep butting in all the time?
C		
call in	Téléphoner	He called Kelly in .

call off	Annuler	I had to call off the barbecue because of the bad weather.
calm down	Calmer/ Se calmer	Please calm down .
carry on	Continuer	Please carry on with your homework.
catch up (on)	Rattraper son retard	I need some time to catch up on that incident.
check out	essayer	I will check it out .
check up (on)	Se renseigner sur	There is no need to check up on me.
clean up	Faire le ménage	Can you clean your room up a little?
clear away	Ranger	Please clear your stuff away .
close in (on)	Se rapprocher de	She closed in quietly.
come back	Revenir	Will the good old days ever come back ?
cut back (on)	Réduire/ faire des économies	I have to cut back on the water usage.
D		
do in	Epuiser	He tried to do his father in .
do without	Se passer de / s'en Passer	I guess I will have to do without lunch today.
drink up	Finir son verre	Drink up , and let's going.
drop off	Déposer	You can drop me off at the next red light.
E		
ease off	Se calmer	The storm eased off a little.
eat up	Finir Son plat	Eat up , and let's get going.
F		
face up (to)	Affronter	You have to face up to challenges.
fall back on	Se rabattre sur	I had to fall back on my savings.
fall behind (in/on) get behind (in on)	Prendre du retard	He's falling behind in his car payments.
fall through	Tomber à l'eau	I hope my party next Saturday doesn't fall through .
fill out	Remplir	Would you fill out the form, please?
fix up	Arranger	Is my bike fixed up yet?
fly in(to)	Arriver(en avion)	When did you fly in ?

fool around	Faire l'imbécile	Stop fooling around .
G		
gather up	Ramasser	Let's gather our things up and leave.
get along with	S'entendre	He couldn't get along with her mother-in-law.
get at	Vouloir dire	What exactly is he getting at ?
get back	Revenir	When will you get back ?
get by (on)	S'en sortir	She can't get by on that much money.
get down to	En venir à	Now, let's get down to homework.
get off	Descendre	I have to get off all my packages.
get on	Monter	How are you getting on ?
get on	Continuer/Se débrouiller	(1) I need to get on doing my homework. (2) How do you get on with Sam?
get over	Franchir/Se remettre	(1) It took him a long time to get over the heart attack. (2) He couldn't get over the huge rock in the path, so he went around it.
get up	Se lever	Today I got up at 10 am.
give away (to)	Donner/Offrir	(1) He gave his car away to his brother. (2) Don't give the answer away .
give up	Abandonner/Renoncer	Are you sure you want to give up your career?
go away	S'en Aller	Please go away !
go back	Retourner	I'll never go back .
go off	Exploser	The bomb went off .
go out (with)	Sortir	Will she go out with Mike next Friday evening?
go through	Traverser	The truck wouldn't go through the tunnel.
go under	Couler/ Faire faillite	(1) I was afraid that our ship would go under . (2) The company went under .

go without	S'en passer	I just cannot go without some candy from time to time.
H		
hand down	Transmettre	He will hand down this to his granddaughter.
hand out	Distribuer	The teacher handed out the test to the surprised students.
hang around (with)	traîner	I usually spend much time hanging around with my friends.
hang on	Attendre	(1) Hang on , please. (2) They couldn't hang on much longer.
hang up	Raccrocher	Why did you hang up on me?
heat up	Réchauffer	How soon will lunch be heated up ?
hit back (at)	riposter	He hit me, but I didn't hit back at him.
hold on	Attendre	Hold on a minute! I have to check this first.
hold up	Attaquer	Some moron tried to hold me up .
hurry up	Se dépêcher	Hurry on , will you? I got some errands to run today.
I		
idle away	Passer son temps à ne rien faire	Don't idle the whole day away .
K		
keep off	Eviter	Please keep off the lawn.
keep on	Continuer	Just keep on practicing your scales by simply playing them up and down.
keep out (of)	Protéger	Keep out of this and mind your own business.
knock over	Renverser	Her reaction simply knocked me over .
L		
leave out (of)	Laisser(en dehors de qqchse)	Leave me out of it, please.
let down	décevoir	I won't let you down again.
let up	S'arrêter	The storm has let up .
lie down	Se coucher/s'allonger	I need to lie down and take

		a little nap.
light up	éclairer	We lighted the house up with the headlights of our automobile.
look in (on)	Passer voir	I will look in on him from time to time.
look out (for)	Faire attention	Look out for that car!
M		
make up	Maquiller/Inventer	(1) Did she make up the clowns yet? (2) I made up that story.
mark down	baisser	Pineapples are marked down again.
mark up	augmenter	Watermelons are marked up again.
mess up	Mettre en désordre/gâcher	(1) He messed up his room. (2) The dirty water messed my pants up . (3) Losing my job really messed my life up .
move in(to)	emménager	I moved into a new apartment last month.
move on (to)	Changer de sujet	Alright, let's move on to our next point.
move out (of)	déménager	I moved out of my old apartment last month.
P		
pass away/on	S'éteindre	Her uncle passed away last summer.
pass out	S'évanouir	(1) Don't drink until you pass out . (2) Please can you pass these handouts out to everyone?
pay off	Etre rentable	The time I spent in this project didn't pay off .
pile up	S'accumuler/s'empiler	Exams are piling up on my desk.
put across to	Faire comprendre	How can I best put this across to them?
R		
reach out	Tendre la main	I reached out , but there was nothing I could get hold

		of.
rely (up)on	Compter sur	Can we rely on you in this case?
run away	S'éloigner	The cat ran away from me.
run off	S'enfuir	I ran off as fast as I could.
run over	Renverser/Déborder (dépasser)	(1) He ran over his neighbour's cat. (2) I ran over the time allotted for the presentation.
run out of	Ne plus avoir de	I'm afraid we ran out of milk and cookies.