

PREPOSITIONS IN ENGLISH

Prepositions are crucial in English because they show relationships between words, especially place, time, direction, cause, and method. Without them English would sound broken or unclear.

For example, saying: “I’m waiting you” sounds awkward. To make sound clear and natural we need the preposition “FOR”.

I’m waiting for you.

1. FOR

This is used for **duration** (a period of time)

Use it with **numbers or length of time**.

Examples:

- She studied English for 3 months before quitting.
- I’ve lived in the UAE for 5 years.
- Your friend is looking for you.

2. AT

This is used for **specific points / time**.

Places: At the bus stop, At the market, At school...

Time: At 7 O’clock, At noon, At midnight...

Examples:

- I’m waiting at the door, hurry up.
- Let’s meet at 9 PM.
- My mom is at the store, and my brother is at the gym.

3. IN

IN is used for **larger areas**, for **months**, for **years**, and **long periods**.

Places: In a country, In a city, In a room. For the room, it means inside the room.

Time: In 2026, In April, In the morning...

Examples:

- I live in Congo.
- Yesterday I was in Kigali, but now I’m in Goma.
- When you called, I was in the bathroom.

In is also used to talk about small and private vehicles:

Examples:

- In the car → Your fiancée is waiting for you in the car.
- In the taxi → We got stuck in the taxi for hours.

4. ON

The preposition ON is used for: **Surfaces/ Streets/ Days & Dates.**

Places: On the table, On the wall, On the street, On the main street...

Time: On Monday, On my birthday, On January 04.

Examples:

- Dad's phone is on the table.
- Our meetings are held on Tuesday and Thursday in PEL Club.
- He lives on RVA street in Goma city.

We also say ON for big, shared transport:

Examples:

- On the bus → The first day we met, it was on the bus.
- On the train → She's sleeping on the train.
- On the plane → He threw out on the plane because, it was his first time.
- On the ship → I enjoy traveling on the ship.

5. FROM

From is used to talk about **source** or **origin**.

Example:

- He borrowed money from his father, to solve the problem ASAP.
- That necklace is a gift from her boyfriend.
- I got a valuable advice from my teacher on how to learn English effectively.

6. At night vs In the night

At night	In the night
<p>Use: General time (when it's dark, evening to morning).</p> <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Owls come out at night. • I prefer studying at night. • Is not safe to go out alone at night. 	<p>Use: Something happened during a particular night (often poetic, dramatic, or storytelling)</p> <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I heard noise in the night. • She woke up several times in the night. • A storm broke out in the night.

SOME QUANTIFIERS

Quantifiers are used in English to tell us how much or how many of something there is.

1. MUCH

We use Much with uncountable nouns (things you can't count): water, money, sugar, time, information...

Example:

- We don't have much time to waste here. Let's go.
- How much water do you drink daily?
- There isn't much money left.

2. MANY

We use many with countable plural nouns: books, people, cars, students...

Examples:

- She asked many questions during the press conference.
- How many books have you read?
- I don't have many friends in Dubai.
- There aren't many students today.

3. SOME

This is used in positive sentences & offers/ requests.

Used for an unspecified amount (but positive), also with countable plural nouns and uncountable nouns.

Examples:

- I have some friends in Dubai.
- Can I have some water please? (polite)
- Would you like some tea? (offer)
- There is some milk in the fridge.

4. ANY

This is used in negative sentences & questions. Also, with countable plural nouns and uncountable nouns.

Tip: "Any" = zero, or when we're not sure if it exists.

Examples:

- I don't have any money.

- Do you have any question?
- At this point, we don't need any help.
- Are there any problems?

When do we use AGO?

AGO is used for past time (counting backward from now.)

Always with simple past tense.

Examples:

- I tried to find you many years ago.
- She left the office 10 minutes ago.
- I moved to Dubai 2 years ago.

When do we use NO?

NO is used to express a strong negation.

Tip: "No" = stronger than "any". It means (absolutely zero.)

Examples:

- I have no idea. (no clue)
- There is no milk in the fridge. (Absolutely nothing left.)
- He has no friends here.

USED TO vs BE USED TO

USED TO	BE USED TO
Past habit or situation that no longer happens or exists.	Being familiar or comfortable with something. (It's a current habit.)
Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I used to drink coffee every morning. (But not anymore) • We used to go out every Saturday. (We don't do it anymore.) 	Examples : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I'm used to waking up early (it's normal for me now.) • They are used to going out every weekend.

SPEAK vs TALK

SPEAK	TALK
<p>Speak is more formal or one-sided. Usually about presentation, speech or news.</p> <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She spoke at the meeting. • He spoke at the conference. • Can I speak to the manager? 	<p>Talk is more casual and usually two-sided. Conversation sharing ideas.</p> <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We talked for hours. • Let's talk about your problem. • It's so challenging to talk about yourself in a job interview.

SAY vs TELL

SAY	TELL
<p>This focuses on words. We use it when we don't mention who is being spoken to (or with "to".)</p> <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She said she was tired. • He said that he was going to call later. 	<p>This focuses on giving information to someone.</p> <p>We always mention who is being told.</p> <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She told me that she was tired. • I told him to call later.