

Prepositions

What are prepositions?

They are words that show the *relationship* between other words in the sentence. They come before nouns and pronouns and sometimes, (rarely) before other words. Plus, they don't change form with gender or case differences as do other words.

PREPOSITIONS of Time:

On (Figurative) is used with days.

- **EX: I will see you on Monday.**
- **EX: The week begins on Sunday.**

At (Figurative) is used with noon, night, midnight, and with the time of day.

- **EX: My plane leaves at noon.**
- **EX: The movie starts at 6 p.m.**

Before is used with specific times, dates, seasons, and events.

- **EX: I have to leave before 5pm to get to the party on time.**
- **EX: I need to mow the grass one more time before winter comes.**

Until is used in relation to specific times, dates, seasons, and events.

- **EX: I have to wait until I am sixteen years old to get my driver's license.**
- **EX: We waited until it was dark before we turned on the Christmas lights.**

During is used with specific times, events and seasons.

- **EX: During the Christmas season, my parents always buy a real Christmas tree.**
- **EX: I like sitting outside during the sunset.**

PREPOSITIONS of Place:

Near describes someone or something being close to a certain point:

- **EX: She was sitting near the pond, when she saw the duck fly over head.**
- **EX: Near my house there is a lovely park with a playground.**

In refers to something being actually inside of a place or a thing. To be contained by.

- **EX: I put my dog in the kitchen sink, to give him a bath.**
- **EX: I didn't realize that I was standing in a puddle until I looked down.**

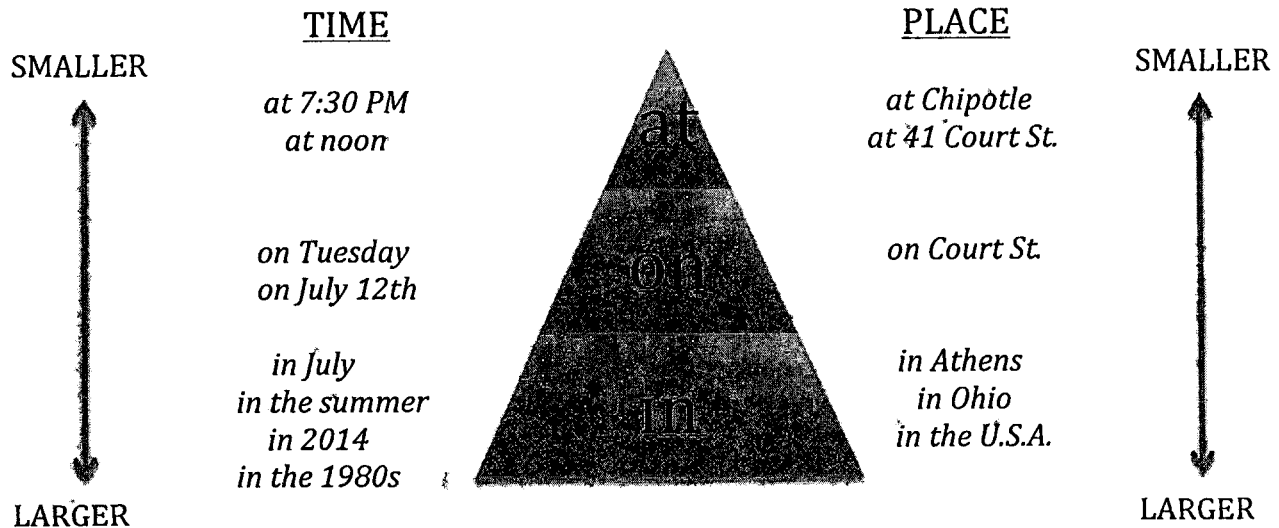
On (Literal) refers to the position of something in relation to a surface.

- **EX: My sister was sitting on the couch when I got home last night.**
- **EX: I was on a plane when I heard about the earthquake in California.**

At (Literal) refers to a general area.

Prepositions of time and place:
At, on, in

Prepositions are challenging to use correctly. In English, there are dozens of different prepositions, and it is common for one preposition to have several different meanings. *At*, *on*, and *in* are three commonly used—and commonly confused—prepositions.



At is used with:

-specific times

-names of places

-addresses (with a number)

On is used with:

-days of the week

-dates

-streets/roads (with no number)

In is used with:

-months

-seasons

-years

-periods of time

-cities

-states

-countries

-larger areas of land (e.g., continents)

*Note that *at night* is an exception. We say *in the morning* and *in the evening* BUT *at night*.

Prepositions (practice)

Complete the following paragraph with *at*, *on*, and *in*.

White House is one of the most famous landmarks ____ America. It was built ____ the 1790s and is located ____ 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue ____ Washington, D. C. ____ Fridays and Saturdays, the White House opens to tourists ____ 7:30 a.m. The White House is a popular place for tourists ____ both the summer and the winter.

(Answers to practice:

The White House is one of the most famous landmarks in America. It was built in the 1790s and is located at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, D. C. On Fridays and Saturdays, the White House opens to tourists at 7:30 a.m. The White House is a popular place for tourists in both the summer and the winter.)