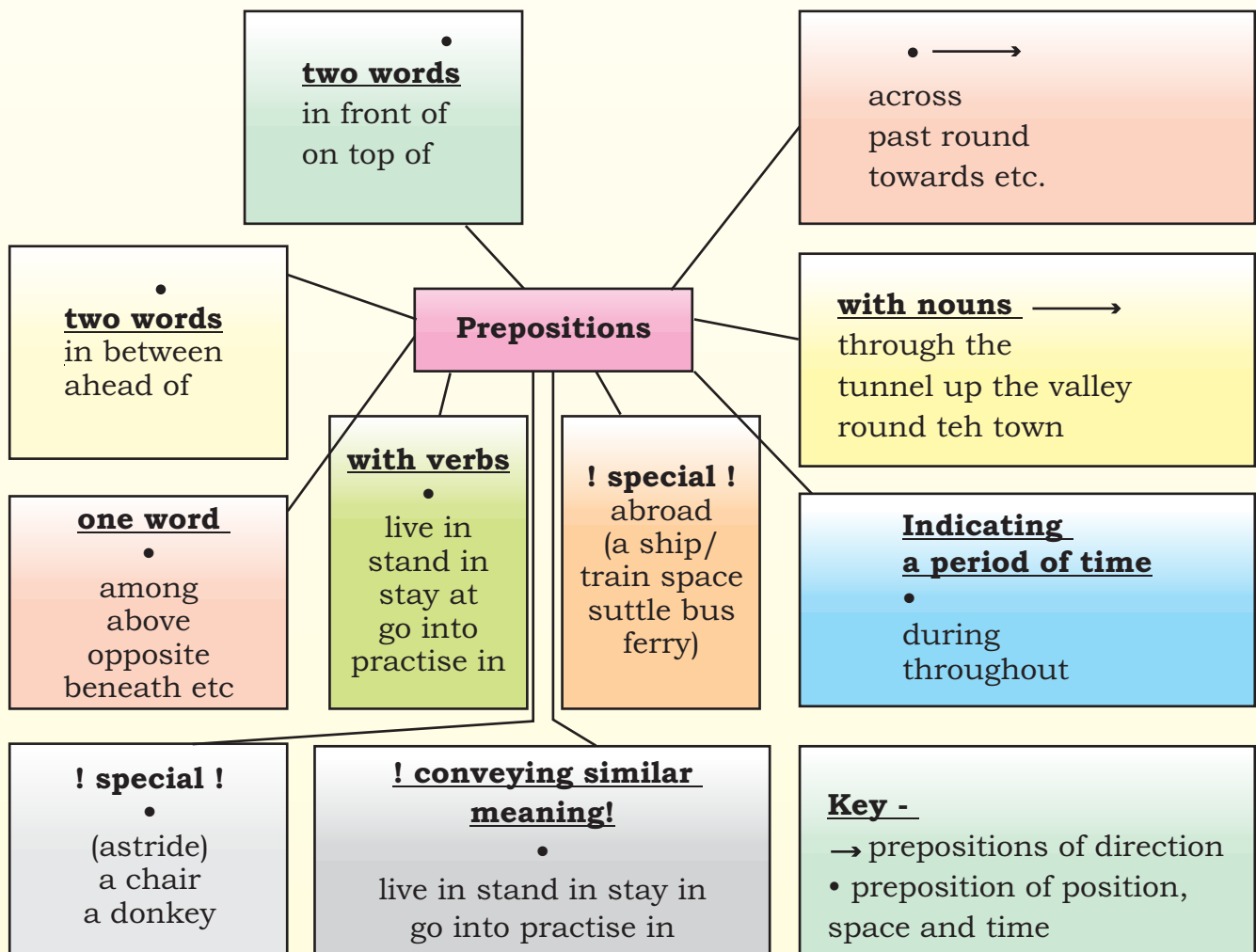


# PREPOSITIONS

14  
UNIT

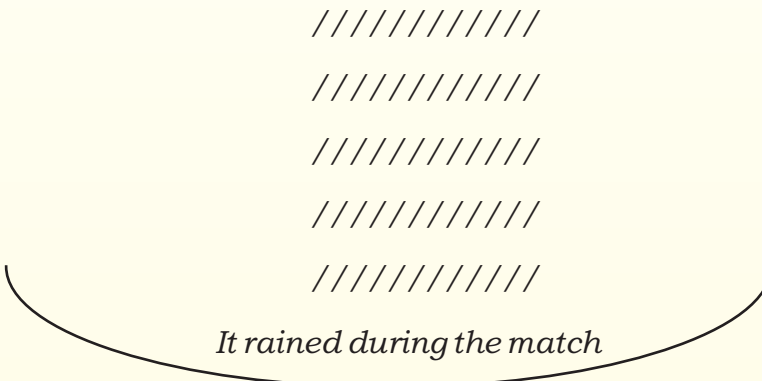
Prepositions often present a problem for students, but the problem is not really a serious one. So, you should not worry too much about them. Areas such as Modals, Conditionals and Subject - Verb agreement are far more important. If you make mistakes in these areas, the breakdown in communication that results will probably be far more serious than if you make a mistake with a preposition. That is why we have left this unit last.

1. You are already very familiar with common prepositions such as 'at', 'on' and 'in'. So, this short unit will focus on some of the less common but very useful ones. They are listed in the diagram below.



**2. Look at the following:**

a)   
*It rained throughout the match*

  
*It rained during the match*

b) *It rained during the match*

**Which one of the following explanations matches the above sentences? Write the letter in the box.**

at one particular time/ particular times in that period

for the entire period

- 3. Read this paragraph. Underline the two prepositions from A.1 above. Then circle the time period they are referring to.**

When the Nalaban Bird Sanctuary was flooded during the monsoons, the flamingos disappeared temporarily. Some of them were spotted on other islands in the lake. However, the long-legged birds flew back to the lake throughout the winter months. A record amount of migration was noticed in the first week of January.

**Match each of the two prepositions above with its dictionary definition below:**

1. right through;  
through the whole of (a place or period of time)

1. concurrently with (some other activity)  
2. within the limit of (a period of time)

- 4. Complete the sentences below with appropriate prepositions.**

1. My grandfather is always complaining \_\_\_\_\_ the pain in his back.
2. The pilot blamed his colleague \_\_\_\_\_ losing their way.
3. An infant depends \_\_\_\_\_ its mother for food.
4. He is worried \_\_\_\_\_ his bad results.
5. They're very fond \_\_\_\_\_ tennis.
6. You were absent \_\_\_\_\_ the Science Club yesterday.
7. I was angry \_\_\_\_\_ my brother for breaking my tape recorder.

Now refer to a dictionary and find out the prepositions that are normally used with the following words: complain, blame, depend, fond, absent and angry.

5. Take five different prepositions from the chart in A.1. Then write five sentences containing one each of those prepositions on a piece of paper. But leave out the prepositions in each. Then hand your piece of paper to a partner. She/ he must complete your sentences, using the correct prepositions.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

6. Fill appropriate prepositions in the blanks in the following sentences:

- a) Since Raju is clever \_\_\_\_\_ painting, he should join an art academy.
- b) They accused their neighbours \_\_\_\_\_ dumping garbage in front of their house.
- c) The students agreed \_\_\_\_\_ their teacher's suggestion regarding the choice of place for an excursion.
- d) He had to leave the firm because his superiors did not agree \_\_\_\_\_ him on many issues.
- e) We should abide \_\_\_\_\_ the constitution of our country.
- f) All the furniture in my office is made \_\_\_\_\_ wood.
- g) Sugar is made \_\_\_\_\_ sugar beat and sugar cane.
- h) The two countries entered \_\_\_\_\_ an agreement to increase bilateral trade.

- i) Though Rahul does not like his rather imperious uncle, he tries to be polite \_\_\_\_\_ him.
- j) The principal congratulated the school basketball team \_\_\_\_\_ their success in the inter school tournament.

**7. Correct the following sentences.**

- a) It is essential that we discuss about your proposal before reaching any decision.
- b) The class fell silent as the teacher entered into the classroom.
- c) I have been living here since four years.
- d) The tournament will be held between Monday to Friday.
- e) Rani closely resembles to her maternal aunt.
- f) As the train was approaching to the station, someone pulled the chain and brought it to a halt.
- g) Connectors are also called as discourse markers.

**Study sentences (a), (b), (e), (f) and (g). What conclusion can you draw from these examples about the correct use of prepositions?**

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**8. Read the following sentences in which prepositions occur before particular words and expressions.**

- a) Let's go in the car instead of by bus.
- b) Seen from his point of view, the proposal seems quite reasonable.

**Now fill appropriate prepositions in the blanks to complete the following sentences.**

- a) \_\_\_\_\_ my opinion, he should have accepted the offer.
- b) Who is the woman \_\_\_\_\_ a dark red saree?
- c) Is there any good show \_\_\_\_\_ the TV tonight?
- d) The old man would have died if he had not been taken to the hospital \_\_\_\_\_ time.
- e) The Chairman of the Board wanted the meeting to start exactly \_\_\_\_\_ time.

**9. Pilloo has always had problems with prepositions. Edit this letter for him. Delete the incorrect prepositions and/ or insert the correct one wherever you think it is necessary. (There are eight mistakes altogether.)**

Anand Bhawan  
Udaipur  
27 January 2011

Dear Binod

I must say time really flies! Because of lack of time, I couldn't write to you earlier. The great news is Anil is marrying with a Sikkimese girl. I must say he's a lucky guy! Reena wasn't too happy for it and Anil was very rude with her. He said he didn't care for her opinion. She wasn't nice with me either.

I've had no time for practice so I'm not taking part at the Athletics meet. I'm no good at either the high jump or the long jump and going there without practice would make it worse.

Yes, do write to Yak and Yeti Travels asking for details from their special offer. If it's within our budget, it'll be a great holiday. Write when you can.

Love

Pilloo

## Integrated Grammar Practice

# 9

1. **This is a conversation between a father and his son. After reading the conversation, report the conversation in your own words.**

Father : Why did you return home late today?

Son : My motorbike brakes failed on the way.

Father : Why didn't you check your brakes before starting?

Son : I was in a hurry. I didn't have the time.

Father : It shows how careless you are. If you keep your bike in a good condition, you will save yourself a lot of trouble and time.

The father asked (a) \_\_\_\_\_. The boy replied (b) \_\_\_\_\_. On hearing this, the father (c) \_\_\_\_\_. The boy said that as (d) \_\_\_\_\_. Disappointed on hearing this, the father observed that it showed how careless he was. He added that if (f) \_\_\_\_\_.

2. **Look at the newspaper headlines given and then use the information in them to complete the news items below by filling in each blank.**

### 1. No Hike in School Fee

Delhi Education Minister has nullified the apprehension that the fee of government schools \_\_\_\_\_.

### 2. Medical College Admissions to Reduce

Admissions of students in medical and dental colleges \_\_\_\_\_ by 2000 and 3000 seats respectively for want of renewal of permission from the centre.

### 3. ISSUE OF COMPUTERISED HOUSE TAX BILLS.

The government of Delhi has decided that \_\_\_\_\_ within two months.

#### 4. New Postal Stamp released

A commemorative stamp in honour of Babu Gulab Rai, \_\_\_\_\_ on 22 June by the Prime Minister.

#### 5. Telephone Cables Cut

Two underground cables of 1200 pairs and 800 pairs capacity each \_\_\_\_\_ and stolen in Sarita Vihar exchange area on the night of 19 June.

### 3. Rearrange the words and phrases given below to form meaningful sentences. The first one has been done for you.

friends/I/my/were/grandmother/and/good

My grandmother and I were good friends.

1. left me/my parents/with her/they/in the city/when/went to live

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2. morning/wake me up/she used to/in/the

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3. she said/prayers/sing song/in a monotonous/morning/her/voice

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4. listened/I/loved/I/her voice/because

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5. she always/with me/school/she/to/went

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4. **Read the instructions for a cookware given below and then fill in the blanks in the paragraph that follows with one suitable word in each blank.**

**INSTRUCTIONS**

- a. Remove the label before cooking and rinse in warm soapy water.
- b. Medium to low heat recommended for all cooking procedures.
- c. Never use on high heat.
- d. Very high temperature could cause sticking, loosening of handles
- e. Easy maintenance. Use liquid soap only, not detergents.

The label(a) \_\_\_\_\_ to be removed before cooking. Then the cookware (b) \_\_\_\_\_ be rinsed in warm soapy water. It is advisable to keep (c) \_\_\_\_\_ medium to low heat for all cooking procedures. The cookware (d) \_\_\_\_\_ never be used on high heat. Very high temperatures (e) \_\_\_\_\_ cause sticking. The handles (f) \_\_\_\_\_ also loosen. However, you (g) \_\_\_\_\_ not worry about (h) \_\_\_\_\_ as it is quite easy. The cookware (h) \_\_\_\_\_ be cleaned with liquid soap and warm water. One (h) \_\_\_\_\_ not use detergents for cleaning these pans.

5. **Read the following newspaper headlines and complete the news items given below.**

**a. Hostages Released**

Bihar police report that all the hostages \_\_\_\_\_ by the gangsters today.

**b. Women's Reservation Bill Blocked**

The bill to grant 30% reservation to women \_\_\_\_\_ at the introductory stage itself by vociferous protests from the opposition.

**c. 20 Killed in Torrential Rains**

Mumbai: At least 20 persons \_\_\_\_\_ and dozens injured in floods caused by torrential rains in Mumbai.

**d. Aussies Crush South Africa**

The South African team \_\_\_\_\_ 3-0 by the Australians in the three test series which concluded recently.

**e. Cold Resistant Plant Discovered**

A cold resistant plant with rich nutrition and medicinal properties \_\_\_\_\_ by the DRDO scientists.

**6. In the passage given below, one word has been omitted in each line. Write the missing word along with the word that comes before and the word that comes after it in your answer sheet against the correct blank number. Ensure that the word that forms your answer is underlined.**

She was one of pretty and charming	(a) _____
young girls sometimes are born, as if	(b) _____
by a slip of fate, a family of clerks.	(c) _____
She no dowry, no expectations, no way	(d) _____
of known, understood, loved and wedded	(e) _____
by rich and distinguished man; so	(f) _____
she let be married to a little clerk	(g) _____
of the Ministry Public Instruction.	(h) _____

# *Interact in English*



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