In English, a preposition is a short word that shows the relationship of a noun/pronoun with another word in the sentence. They are always found in prepositional sentences and are usually located before the name or pronoun.

A preposition is used to give a spatial or temporal indication, a position or a logical link between two things:

Examples:

- I'm going to the office.
- He's at the bar.
- My pen is on the table.
- We meet in an hour.
- I saw a beautiful movie painting by Spielberg.
- I'm from Canada.
- The letter is under your book.
- She will be back in a few days.
- I'm leaving on Friday.
- The book belongs to me.
- The bear was killed by the hunter.
- Tina is the girl in the blue dress.
- The cat is near the window.

Here are some common prepositions in English:

above, about, across, against, along, among, around, at, before, behind, below, beneath, beside, between, beyond, by, down, during, except, for, from, in, inside, into, like, near, of, off, on, since, to, toward, through, under, underneath, until, up, upon, with, within....

Prepositions are always used after specific nouns, adjectives and verbs and can change their meaning:

Examples:

Nouns + preposition:

- concern for...
- interest in...
- love of...
- success in...

Adjective + preposition:
- afraid of...
- happy about...
- jealous of...
- made of...
- familiar with...

Verb + preposition

- give up...
- talk about...
- find out...
- grow up...
- belong to...

A combination of verb+preposition is called a "verbal phrasal". The word that is attached to the verb is then called a particle. The phrasal verbs are very important to know because with different prepositions (or particles) you can then form many different words: look up, look out, look down...

⚠ When prepositions are not necessary:

Sometimes, we may think that we should use a preposition in a sentence when it is not necessary:

- Where is your house at?
- Where did they go to?
- She wouldn't let the dog inside of/in the house.
- He threw the TV out of the window.

⚠ Avoid repeating prepositions:

When two words or sentences are used in parallel and require the same preposition, it is not necessary to use it twice in a row to avoid repeating it:

- You can wear that dress in summer and in winter.
- Tina is making a chocolate cake with whipped cream and with strawberries.