

## COMPLETE LIST OF PREPOSITIONS AND THEIR USES

at	besides	considering	for	into	on	per	through	up
away from	between	despite	from	less	on top of	plus	throughout	upon
bar	beyond	down	in	like	onto	regarding	till	versus
barring	but	due to	in between	minus	opposite	respecting	to	via
because of	by	during	in front of	near	out	round	toward or towards	wanting
before	by the time of	except	in spite of	near to	out of	save	under	while
behind	circa	except for	in view of	next to	outside	saving	underneath	with
below	close by	excepting	including	notwithstanding	over	similar to	unlike	within
beneath	close to	excluding	inside	of	past	since	until	without
beside	concerning	failing	instead of	off	pending	than	unto	

### in /ɪn/ prep., adv., adj., noun

*prep.*

- 1** at a point within an area or a space: *a country in Africa* ◊ *The kids were playing in the street.* ◊ *It's in that drawer.* ◊ *I read about it in the paper.*
- 2** within the shape of sth; surrounded by sth: *She was lying in bed.* ◊ *sitting in an armchair* ◊ *Leave the key in the lock.* ◊ *Soak it in cold water.*
- 3** into sth: *He dipped his brush in the paint.* ◊ *She got in her car and drove off.*
- 4** forming the whole or part of sth/sb; contained within sth/sb: *There are 31 days in May.* ◊ *all the paintings in the collection* ◊ *I recognize his father in him (= his character is similar to his father's).*
- 5** during a period of time: *in 2005* ◊ *in the 18th century* ◊ *in spring / summer / autumn / winter* ◊ *in the fall* ◊ *in March* ◊ *in the morning / afternoon / evening* ◊ *I'm getting forgetful in my old age.*
- 6** after a particular length of time: *to return in a few minutes / hours / days / months.* ◊ *It will be ready in a week's time (= one week from now).* ◊ *She learnt to drive in three weeks (= after three weeks she could drive).*
- 7** (used in negative sentences or after *first, last, etc.*) for a particular period of time: *I haven't seen him in years.* ◊ *It's the first letter I've had in ten days.*
- 8** wearing sth: *dressed in their best clothes* ◊ *the man in the hat* ◊ *to be in uniform / disguise* ◊ *She was all in black.*
- 9** used to describe physical surroundings: *We went out in the rain.* ◊ *He was sitting alone in the darkness.*
- 10** used to show a state or condition: *I'm in love!* ◊ *The house is in good repair.* ◊ *I must put my affairs in order.* ◊ *a man in his thirties* ◊ *The daffodils were in full bloom.*
- 11** involved in sth; taking part in sth: *to act in a play*
- 12** used to show sb's job or profession: *He is in the army.* ◊ *She's in computers.* ◊ *in business / politics*

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- 13** used to show the form, shape, arrangement or quantity of sth: *a novel in three parts* ◊ *Roll it up in a ball.* ◊ *They sat in rows.* ◊ *People flocked in their thousands to see her.*
- 14** used to show the language, material, etc. used: *Say it in English.* ◊ *She wrote in pencil.* ◊ *Put it in writing.* ◊ *I paid in cash.* ◊ *He spoke in a loud voice.*
- 15** concerning sth: *She was not lacking in courage.* ◊ *a country rich in minerals* ◊ *three metres in length*
- 16** while doing sth; while sth is happening: *In attempting to save the child from drowning, she nearly lost her own life.* ◊ *In all the commotion I forgot to tell him the news.*
- 17** used to introduce the name of a person who has a particular quality: *We're losing a first-rate editor in Kathy.*
- 18** used to show a rate or relative amount: *a gradient of one in five* ◊ *a tax rate of 22 pence in the pound*

**in that** /ɪn ðæt/ (written) for the reason that; because: *She was fortunate in that she had friends to help her.*

### ■adv.

- 1** contained within an object, an area or a substance: *We were locked in.* ◊ *I can't drink coffee with milk in.*
- 2** into an object, an area or a substance: *She opened the door and went in.* ◊ *The kids were playing by the river and one of them fell in.*
- 3** (of people) at home or at a place of work: *Nobody was in when we called.*

### ◻OPPOSITE

- 4** (of trains, buses, etc.) at the place where people can get on or off, for example the station: *The bus is due in (= it should arrive) at six.*
  - 5** (of letters, etc.) received: *Applications must be in by April 30.*
  - 6** (of the TIDE) at or towards its highest point on land: *Is the tide coming in or going out?*
  - 7** elected: *Several new Labour councillors got in at the last election.*
  - 8** (in cricket, baseball, etc.) if a team or team member is **in**, they are **BATTING**: *England were in first.*
  - 9** (in tennis, etc.) if the ball is **in**, it has landed inside the line: *Her serve was just in.*
  - be in at sth** to be present when sth happens: *They were in at the start.*
  - be in for sth** (informal) to be going to experience sth soon, especially sth unpleasant: *He's in for a shock!* ◊ *I'm afraid we're in for a storm.*
  - be / get in on sth** (informal) to be/become involved in sth; to share or know about sth: *I'd like to be in on the plan.* ◊ *Is she in on the secret?*
  - be (well) in with sb** (informal) to be (very) friendly with sb, and likely to get an advantage from the friendship
  - in and out (of sth)** going regularly to a place: *He was in and out of jail for most of his life.*
- adj. [usually before noun] (informal) popular and fashionable: *Purple is the in colour this spring.* ◊ *Exotic pets are the in thing right now.* ◊ *Short skirts are in again.*—see also **IN-JOKE**

### ■noun

- the ins and outs (of sth)** all the details, especially the complicated or difficult ones: *the ins and outs of the problem* ◊ *He quickly learned the ins and outs of the job.*

**on** /ɒn; AmE ɑ:n; ɔ:n/ prep., adv.

prep.

For the special uses of **on** in phrasal verbs, look at the entries for the verbs. For example **turn on sb** is in the phrasal verb section at **turn**.

- 1** in or into a position covering, touching or forming part of a surface: *a picture on a wall* ◊

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*There's a mark on your skirt. ◊the diagram on page 5 ◊Put it down on the table. ◊He had been hit on the head. ◊She climbed on to the bed.*

This could also be written: *onto the bed*

- 2** supported by sb/sth: *She was standing on one foot. ◊Try lying on your back. ◊Hang your coat on that hook.*
  - 3** used to show a means of transport: *He was on the plane from New York. ◊to travel on the bus / tube / coach ◊I came on my bike. ◊a woman on horseback*
  - 4** used to show a day or date: *He came on Sunday. ◊We meet on Tuesdays. ◊on May the first / the first of May ◊on the evening of May the first ◊on one occasion ◊on your birthday*
  - 5** immediately after sth: *On arriving home I discovered they had gone. ◊Please report to reception on arrival. ◊There was a letter waiting for him on his return.*
  - 6** about sth/sb: *a book on South Africa ◊She tested us on irregular verbs.*
  - 7** being carried by sb; in the possession of sb: *Have you got any money on you?*
  - 8** used to show that sb belongs to a group or an organization: *to be on the committee / staff / jury / panel ◊Whose side are you on (= which of two or more different views do you support)?*
  - 9** eating or drinking sth; using a drug or a medicine regularly: *He lived on a diet of junk food. ◊The doctor put me on antibiotics.*
  - 10** used to show direction: *on the left / right ◊He turned his back on us.*
  - 11** at or near a place: *a town on the coast ◊a house on the Thames ◊We lived on an estate.*
  - 12** used to show the basis or reason for sth: *a story based on fact ◊On their advice I applied for the job.*
  - 13** supported financially by sth: *to live on a pension / a student grant ◊to be on a low wage ◊You can't feed a family on £50 a week. ◊Drinks are on me (= I am paying).*
  - 14** by means of sth; using sth: *She played a tune on her guitar. ◊The information is available on the Internet. ◊We spoke on the phone. ◊What's on TV? ◊The programme's on Channel 4.*
  - 15** used with some nouns or adjectives to say who or what is affected by sth: *a ban on smoking ◊He's hard on his kids. ◊Go easy on the mayo! (= do not give me too much)*
  - 16** compared with sb/sth: *Sales are up on last year.*
  - 17** used to describe an activity or a state: *to be on business / holiday / vacation ◊The book is currently on loan.*
  - 18** used when giving a telephone number: *You can get me on 0181 530 3906. ◊She's on extension 2401.*
- adv.
- 1** used to show that sth continues: *He worked on without a break. ◊If you like a good story, read on.*
  - 2** used to show that sb/sth moves or is sent forward: *She stopped for a moment, then walked on. ◊Keep straight on for the beach. ◊From then on he never trusted her again. ◊Please send the letter on to my new address.*
- This cannot be written: *onto my new address*
- 3** on sb's body; being worn: *Put your coat on. ◊I didn't have my glasses on. ◊What did she have on (= what was she wearing)?*
  - 4** covering, touching or forming part of sth: *Make sure the lid is on.*
  - 5** connected or operating; being used: *The lights were all on. ◊The TV is always on in their house. ◊We were without electricity for three hours but it's on again now.*
  - 6** happening: *There was a war on at the time. ◊What's on at the movies? ◊The band are on (= performing) in ten minutes.*
  - 7** planned to take place in the future: *The game is still on (= it has not been cancelled). ◊I don't think we've got anything on this weekend. ◊I'm sorry we can't come—we've got a lot on.*
  - 8** on duty; working: *I'm on now till 8 tomorrow morning.*

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- 9** in or into a vehicle: *The bus stopped and four people got on.* ◊ *They hurried on to the plane.*—see also ONTO
- be on about sth** (*informal*) to talk about sth; to mean sth: *I didn't know what he was on about. It didn't make sense.*
- be / go / keep on about sth** (*informal, disapproving*) to talk in a boring or complaining way about sth: *Stop keeping on about it!*
- be / go / keep on at sb (to do sth)** (*informal, disapproving*) to keep asking or telling sb sth so that they become annoyed or tired: *He was on at me again to lend him money.*
- it isn't on** (*informal*) used to say that sth is not acceptable
- on and on** without stopping; continuously: *She went on and on about her trip.*
- What are you on?** (*informal*) used when you are very surprised at sb's behaviour and are suggesting that they are acting in a similar way to sb using drugs
- you're on** (*informal*) used when you are accepting a bet—more at OFF *adv.*

### **at** /æ/; strong form æt/ *prep.*

- 1** used to say where sth/sb is or where sth happens: *at the corner of the street* ◊ *We changed at Crewe.* ◊ *They arrived late at the airport.* ◊ *At the roundabout take the third exit.* ◊ *I'll be at home all morning.* ◊ *She's at Tom's (= at Tom's house).* ◊ *I met her at the hospital.* ◊ *How many people were there at the concert?*
- 2** used to say where sb works or studies: *He's been at the bank longer than anyone else.* ◊ *She's at Yale (= Yale University).*
- 3** used to say when sth happens: *We left at 2 o'clock.* ◊ *at the end of the week* ◊ *We woke at dawn.* ◊ *I didn't know at the time of writing (= when I wrote).* ◊ *At night you can see the stars.* ◊ (*BrE*) *What are you doing at the weekend?*
- 4** used to state the age at which sb does sth: *She got married at 25.* ◊ *He left school at the age of 16.*
- 5** in the direction of or towards sb/sth: *What are you looking at?* ◊ *He pointed a gun at her.* ◊ *Somebody threw paint at the prime minister.*
- 6** used after a verb to show that sb tries to do sth, or partly does sth, but does not succeed or complete it: *He clutched wildly at the rope as he fell.* ◊ *She nibbled at a sandwich (= ate only small bits of it).*
- 7** used to state the distance away from sth: *I held it at arm's length.* ◊ *Can you read a car number plate at fifty metres?*
- 8** used to show the situation sb/sth is in, what sb is doing or what is happening: *The country is now at war.* ◊ *I felt at a disadvantage.* ◊ *I think Mr Harris is at lunch.*
- 9** used to show a rate, speed, etc: *He was driving at 70 mph.* ◊ *The noise came at two-minute intervals (= once every two minutes).*
- 10 ~ sb's / sth's best / worst, etc.** used to say that sb/sth is as good, bad, etc. as they can be: *This was Henman at his best.* ◊ *The garden's at its most beautiful in June.*
- 11** used with adjectives to show how well sb does sth: *I'm good at French.* ◊ *She's hopeless at managing people.*
- 12** used with adjectives to show the cause of sth: *They were impatient at the delay.* ◊ *She was delighted at the result.*
- 13** (*formal*) in response to sth: *They attended the dinner at the chairman's invitation.*
- at that** used when you are giving an extra piece of information: *He managed to buy a car after all—and a nice one at that.*
- where it's at** (*informal*) a place or an activity that is very popular or fashionable: *Judging by the crowds waiting to get in, this seems to be where it's at.*

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**over** /<sup>əʊ</sup>və(r); AmE<sup>oʊ</sup>-/ *adv., prep., noun*

### ■ *adv.*

- 1** downwards and outwards from an upright position: *Try not to knock that vase over.* ◊ *The wind must have blown it over.*
- 2** from one side to another side: *She turned over onto her front.* ◊ *The car skidded off the road and rolled over and over.*
- 3** across a street, an open space, etc: *I stopped and crossed over.* ◊ *He rowed us over to the other side of the lake.* ◊ *They have gone over to France.* ◊ *This is my aunt who's over from Canada.* ◊ *I went over (= across the room) and asked her name.* ◊ *Let's ask some friends over (= to our home).* ◊ *Put it down **over there**.*
- 4** so as to cover sb/sth completely: *The lake was frozen over.* ◊ *Cover her over with a blanket.*
- 5** above; more: *children of 14 and over* ◊ *You get an A grade for scores of 75 and over.*
- 6** remaining; not used or needed: *If there's any food left over, put it in the fridge.*
- 7** again: *He repeated it several times over until he could remember it.* ◊ (AmE) *It's all wrong—you'll have to do it over.*
- 8** ended: *By the time we arrived the meeting was over.* ◊ *Thank goodness that's over!* ◊ *I was glad when it was **over and done with**.*
- 9** used to talk about sb/sth changing position: *He's gone over to the enemy (= joined them).* ◊ *Please change the wheels over (= for example, put the front wheels at the back).* ◊ *Hand over the money!*
- 10** used when communicating by radio: *Message received. Over (= it is your turn to speak).* ◊ *Message understood. **Over and out**.*
- (all) over again** a second time from the beginning: *He did the work so badly that I had to do it all over again myself.*
- over against sth** in contrast with sth
- over and over (again)** many times; repeatedly: *I've told you over and over again not to do that.*
- over to you** used to say that it is sb's turn to do sth

### ■ *prep.*

- 1** resting on the surface of sb/sth and partly or completely covering them/it: *She put a blanket over the sleeping child.* ◊ *He wore an overcoat over his suit.* ◊ *She put her hand over her mouth to stop herself from screaming.*
- 2** in or to a position higher than but not touching sb/sth; above sb/sth: *They held a large umbrella over her.* ◊ *The balcony juts out over the street.* ◊ *There was a lamp hanging over the table.*
- 3** from one side of sth to the other; across sth: *a bridge over the river* ◊ *They ran over the grass.* ◊ *They had a wonderful view over the park.*
- 4** on the far or opposite side of sth: *He lives over the road.*
- 5** so as to cross sth and be on the other side: *She climbed over the wall.*
- 6** falling from or down from a place: *The car had toppled over the cliff.* ◊ *He didn't dare look over the edge.*
- 7 (all)** ~ in or on all or most parts of sth: *Snow is falling all over the country.* ◊ *They've travelled all over the world.* ◊ *There were papers lying around **all over the place**.*
- 8** more than a particular time, amount, cost, etc: *over 3 million copies sold* ◊ *She stayed in Lagos for over a month.* ◊ *He's over sixty.*
- 9** used to show that sb has control or authority: *She has only the director over her.* ◊ *He ruled over a great empire.* ◊ *She has editorial control over what is included.*
- 10** during sth: *We'll discuss it over lunch.* ◊ *Over the next few days they got to know the town well.* ◊ *We're away over (= until after) the New Year.*

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- 11** past a particular difficult stage or situation: *We're over the worst of the recession.* ◊ *It took her ages to get over her illness.*
- 12** because of or concerning sth; about sth: *an argument over money* ◊ *a disagreement over the best way to proceed*
- 13** using sth; by means of sth: *We heard it over the radio.* ◊ *She wouldn't tell me over the phone.*
- 14** louder than sth: *I couldn't hear what he said over the noise of the traffic.* ◻ note at ABOVE
- over and above** in addition to sth: *There are other factors over and above those we have discussed.*
- **noun** (in cricket) a series of six balls BOWLED by the same person: *Chadwick dismissed two batsmen in the same over.*

**down** /daʊn/ *adv., prep., verb, adj., noun*

■ **adv.**

- 1** to or at a lower place or position: *She jumped down off the chair.* ◊ *He looked down at her.* ◊ *We watched as the sun went down.* ◊ *She bent down to pick up her glove.* ◊ *Mary's not down yet (= she is still upstairs).* ◊ *The baby can't keep any food down (= in her body).*
- 2** from a standing or upright position to a sitting or horizontal one: *Please sit down.* ◊ *He had to go and lie down for a while.*
- 3** at a lower level or rate: *Prices have gone down recently.* ◊ *We're already two goals down (= the other team has two goals more).*
- 4** used to show that the amount or strength of sth is lower, or that there is less activity: *Turn the music down!* ◊ *The class settled down and she began the lesson.*
- 5** (in a CROSSWORD) reading from top to bottom, not from side to side: *I can't do 3 down.*
- 6** to or in the south of a country: *They flew down to Texas.* ◊ *Houses are more expensive down south.*
- 7** on paper; on a list: *Did you get that down?* ◊ *I always write everything down.* ◊ *Have you got me down for the trip?*
- 8** used to show the limits in a range or an order: *Everyone will be there, from the Principal down.*
- 9** having lost the amount of money mentioned: *At the end of the day we were £20 down.*
- 10** if you pay an amount of money **down**, you pay that to start with, and the rest later
- 11** (*informal*) used to say how far you have got in a list of things you have to do: *Well, I've seen six apartments so far. That's six down and four to go!*
- be down to sb** (*informal*) to be the responsibility of sb: *It's down to you to check the door.*
- be down to sb/sth** to be caused by a particular person or thing: *She claimed her problems were down to the media.*
- be down to sth** to have only a little money left: *I'm down to my last dollar.*
- be / go down with sth** to have or catch an illness
- down through sth** (*written*) during a long period of time: *Down through the years this town has seen many changes.*
- down under** (*informal*) in Australia

**of** /əv; strong form ɒv; AmE ʌv/ *prep.*

- 1** belonging to sb; relating to sb: *a friend of mine* ◊ *the love of a mother for her child* ◊ *the role of the teacher* ◊ *Can't you throw out that old bike of Tommy's?* ◊ *the paintings of Monet*  
When you are talking about everything someone has painted, written, etc. use **of**. When you are referring to one or more examples of somebody's work, use **by**: *a painting by Monet*

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- 2** belonging to sth; being part of sth; relating to sth: *the lid of the box* ◊ *the director of the company* ◊ *a member of the team* ◊ *the result of the debate*
- 3** coming from a particular background or living in a place: *a woman of Italian descent* ◊ *the people of Wales*
- 4** concerning or showing sb/sth: *a story of passion* ◊ *a photo of my dog* ◊ *a map of India*
- 5** used to say what sb/sth is, consists of, or contains: *the city of Dublin* ◊ *the issue of housing* ◊ *a crowd of people* ◊ *a glass of milk*
- 6** used with measurements and expressions of time, age, etc: *2 kilos of potatoes* ◊ *an increase of 2%* ◊ *a girl of 12* ◊ *the fourth of July* ◊ *the year of his birth* ◊ *(old-fashioned) We would often have a walk of an evening.*
- 7** used to show sb/sth belongs to a group, often after *some, a few, etc*: *some of his friends* ◊ *a few of the problems* ◊ *the most famous of all the stars*
- 8** used to show the position of sth/sb in space or time: *just north of Detroit* ◊ *at the time of the revolution* ◊ *(AmE) at a quarter of eleven tonight (= 10.45 p.m.)*
- 9** used after nouns formed from verbs. The noun after 'of' can be either the object or the subject of the action: *the arrival of the police (= they arrive)* ◊ *criticism of the police (= they are criticized)* ◊ *fear of the dark* ◊ *the howling of the wind*
- 10** used after some verbs before mentioning sb/sth involved in the action: *to rob / deprive sb of sth* ◊ *He was cleared of all blame.* ◊ *Think of a number, any number.*
- 11** used after some adjectives before mentioning sb/sth that a feeling relates to: *to be ashamed / proud of sth*
- 12** used to give your opinion of sb's behaviour: *It was kind of you to offer.*
- 13** used when one noun describes a second one: *Where's that idiot of a boy? (= the boy that you think is an idiot)*
- of all** used before a noun to say that sth is very surprising: *I'm surprised that you of all people should say that.*
- of all the** ... used to express anger: *Of all the nerve!*

**across** /ə'krɒs; AmE ə'krɔːs/ *adv., prep.*

■ *adv.*

- 1** from one side to the other side: *It's too wide. We can't swim across.* ◊ *The yard measures about 50 feet across.*
- 2** in a particular direction towards or at sb/sth: *When my name was called, he looked across at me.*
- 3** (across from) opposite: *There's a school just across from our house.*
- 4** (of an answer in a **CROSSWORD**) written from side to side: *I can't do 3 across.*

■ *prep.*

- 1** from one side to the other side of sth: *He walked across the field.* ◊ *I drew a line across the page.* ◊ *A grin spread across her face.* ◊ *Where's the nearest bridge across the river?*
- 2** on the other side of sth: *There's a bank right across the street.*
- 3** on or over a part of the body: *He hit him across the face.* ◊ *It's too tight across the back.*
- 4** in every part of a place, group of people, etc.
- [SYN] THROUGHOUT**: *Her family is scattered across the country.* ◊ *This view is common across all sections of the community.*

**about** /ə'baʊt/ *adv., prep., adj.*

■ *adv.*

- 1** a little more or less than; a little before or after
- [SYN] APPROXIMATELY**: *It costs about \$10.* ◊ *They waited (for) about an hour.* ◊ *He arrived (at)*

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*about ten.*

- 2** nearly; very close to: *I'm just about ready.* ◊ *This is about the best we can hope for.*
- 3** (especially BrE) in many directions; here and there: *The children were rushing about in the garden.*
- 4** (especially BrE) in no particular order; in various places: *Her books were lying about on the floor.*
- 5** (especially BrE) doing nothing in particular: *People were standing about in the road.*
- 6** (especially BrE) able to be found in a place: *There was nobody about.* ◊ *There's a lot of flu about.* ◊ *She's somewhere about—I saw her a few minutes ago.*
- 7** (technical or formal) facing the opposite direction: *He brought the ship about.* □ note at

### AROUND

- that's about all** | that's about it used to say that you have finished telling sb about sth and there is nothing to add: *'Anything else?' 'No, that's about it for now.'*—more at **JUST adv.**, **OUT adv.**

### ■ prep.

- 1** on the subject of sb/sth; in connection with sb/sth: *a book about flowers* ◊ *Tell me all about it.* ◊ *What's she so angry about?* ◊ *There's something strange about him.* ◊ *I don't know what you're on about (= talking about).* ◊ *There's nothing you can do about it now.*
- 2** used to describe the purpose of sth: *Movies are all about making money these days.* ◊
- What was all that about?** (= what was the reason for what has just happened?)
- 3** busy with sth; doing sth: *Everywhere people were going about their daily business.* ◊ *And while you're about it ... (= while you're doing that)*
- 4** (especially BrE) in many directions in a place; here and there: *We wandered about the town for an hour or so.* ◊ *He looked about the room.*
- 5** (especially BrE) in various parts of a place; here and there: *The papers were strewn about the room.*
- 6** (especially BrE) next to a place or person; in the area mentioned: *She's somewhere about the office.*
- 7** (literary) surrounding sb/sth: *She wore a shawl about her shoulders.*

### how / what about?

- 1** used when asking for information about sb/sth: *How about Ruth?* *Have you heard from her?* ◊ *I'm having fish. What about you?*
- 2** used to make a suggestion: *How about going for a walk?* ◊ *What about a break?*

### ■ adj.

- be about to do sth** to be close to doing sth; to be going to do sth very soon: *I was just about to ask you the same thing.*
- not be about to do sth** to not be willing to do sth; to not intend to do sth: *I've never done any cooking and I'm not about to start now.*



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### VOCABULARY BUILDING

#### ways of saying approximately

*The flight takes approximately three hours.*  
*The tickets cost about £20 each.*  
*The repairs will cost \$200, give or take a few dollars.*  
*How much will it cost, more or less ?*  
*We are expecting thirty or so people to come.*  
*She must be 25 or thereabouts.*  
*Profits have fallen by roughly 15%.*  
*You can expect to earn round about £40 000 a year.*  
*The price is somewhere around \$800.*  
*She earns somewhere in the region of £25 000.*

All these words and phrases are used in both speaking and writing; about is the most common and approximately the most formal.

#### along /ə'ɒŋ; AmE ə'ɒŋ/ prep., adv.

##### ■ prep.

1 from one end to or towards the other end of sth: *They walked slowly along the road.* ◊ *I looked along the shelves for the book I needed.*

2 in a line that follows the side of sth long: *Houses had been built along both sides of the river.*

3 at a particular point on or beside sth long: *You'll find his office just along the corridor.*

##### ■ adv.

1 forward: *I was just walking along singing to myself.* ◊ *He pointed out various landmarks as we drove along.*

2 with sb: *We're going for a swim. Why don't you come along?* ◊ *I'll be along (= I'll join you) in a few minutes.*

3 towards a better state or position: *The book's coming along nicely.*

**along with sb/sth** in addition to sb/sth; in the same way as sb/sth: *She lost her job when the factory closed, along with hundreds of others.*

#### be·neath /bɪ'niːθ/ prep. (formal)

1 in or to a lower position than sb/sth; under sb/sth: *They found the body buried beneath a pile of leaves.* ◊ *The boat sank beneath the waves.*

2 not good enough for sb: *He considers such jobs beneath him.* ◊ *They thought she had married beneath her (= married a man of lower social status).* □ note at UNDER

► **be·neath** adv.: *Her careful make-up hid the signs of age beneath.*

#### off /ɒf; AmE ɔːf; ɑːf/ adv., prep., adj., noun

##### ■ adv.

1 away from a place; at a distance in space or time: *I called him but he ran off.* ◊ *Sarah's off in India somewhere.* ◊ *I must be off soon (= leave).* ◊ *Off you go!* ◊ *Summer's not far off now.* ◊ *A solution is still some way off.*

2 used to say that sth has been removed: *He's had his beard shaved off.* ◊ *Take your coat off.* ◊ *Don't leave the toothpaste with the top off.*

3 starting a race: *They're off (= the race has begun).*

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- 4** no longer going to happen; cancelled: *The wedding is off.*
- 5** not connected or functioning: *The water is off.* ◊ *Make sure the TV is off.*
- 6** (especially BrE) (of an item on a menu) no longer available or being served: *Sorry, the duck is off.*
- 7** away from work or duty: *She's off today.* ◊ *I've got three days off next week.* ◊ *How many days did you **take off**?* ◊ *I need some **time off**.*
- 8** taken from the price: *shoes with £5 off* ◊ *All shirts have / are 10% off.*
- 9** behind or at the sides of the stage in a theatre

### SYN OFFSTAGE

- be better off** to have more money: *Families will be better off under the new law.* ◊ *Her promotion means she's \$100 a week better off.*
- be better off (doing sth)** used to say that sb is/would be happier or more satisfied if they were in a particular position or took a particular action: *She's better off without him.* ◊ *The weather was so bad we'd have been better off staying at home.*
- be off for sth** (informal) to have a particular amount of sth: *How are we off for coffee (= how much have we got)?*—see also **BADLY OFF**
- off and on / on and off** from time to time; now and again: *It rained on and off all day.*

### ■ prep.

- 1** down or away from a place or at a distance in space or time: *I fell off the ladder.* ◊ *Keep off the grass!* ◊ *an island off the coast of Spain* ◊ *They were still 100 metres off the summit.* ◊ *Scientists are still a long way off finding a cure.* ◊ *We're getting right off the subject.*
- 2** leading away from sth, for example a road or room: *We live off Main Street.* ◊ *There's a bathroom off the main bedroom.*
- 3** used to say that sth has been removed: *You need to take the top off the bottle first!* ◊ *I want about an inch off the back of my hair.*
- 4** away from work or duty: *He's had ten days off school.*
- 5** away from a price: *They knocked £500 off the car.*
- 6** (off of) (*non-standard* or *AmE, informal*) off; from: *I got it off of my brother.*
- 7** not wanting or liking sth that you usually eat or use: *I'm off (= not drinking) alcohol for a week.* ◊ *He's finally off drugs (= he no longer takes them).*

### ■ adj. [not before noun]

- 1** (of food) no longer fresh enough to eat or drink: *This fish has gone off.* ◊ *The milk smells off.* ◊ *It's off.*
- 2** ~ (with sb) (*informal, especially BrE*) not polite or friendly: *He was a bit off with me this morning.*
- 3** (*informal, especially BrE*) not acceptable: *It's a bit off expecting us to work on Sunday.*

### ■ noun [sing.] (the off) the start of a race: *They're ready for the off.*

**upon** /<sup>ə</sup>p<sup>ʊ</sup>n/; *AmE* <sup>ə</sup>p<sup>ɑː</sup>n/ *prep.* (*formal, especially BrE*) = **ON**: *The decision was based upon two considerations.*

- (**almost**) **upon you** if sth in the future is **almost upon you**, it is going to arrive or happen very soon: *The summer season was almost upon them again.*—more at **ONCE adv.**

**past** /p<sup>ɑː</sup>st/; *AmE* pæst/ *adj., noun, prep., adv.*

### ■ prep.

- 1** (*AmE* also **after**) later than sth: *half past two* ◊ *ten (minutes) past six* ◊ *There's a bus at twenty minutes past the hour (= at 1.20, 2.20, etc.).* ◊ *We arrived at two o'clock and left at ten past (= ten minutes past two).* ◊ *It was past midnight when we got home.*
- 2** on or to the other side of sb/sth: *We live in the house just past the church.* ◊ *He hurried*

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*past them without stopping.* ◊ *He just walked **straight past** us!*

**3** above or further than a particular point or stage: *Unemployment is now past the 3 million mark.* ◊ *The flowers are past their best.* ◊ *He's past his prime.* ◊ *She's long past retirement age.* ◊ *Honestly, I'm **past caring** what happens (= I can no longer be bothered to care).*

**past it** (*BrE, informal*) too old to do what you used to be able to do; too old to be used for its normal function: *In some sports you're past it by the age of 25.* ◊ *That coat is looking decidedly past it.*

■ **adv.**

**1** from one side of sth to the other: *I called out to him as he ran past.*

**2** used to describe time passing: *A week went past and nothing had changed.*

**be · hind** /bɪˈhaɪnd/ *prep., adv., noun*

■ **prep.**

**1** at or towards the back of sb/sth, and often hidden by it or them: *Who's the girl standing behind Jan?* ◊ *Stay close behind me.* ◊ *a small street behind the station* ◊ *She glanced behind her.* ◊ *Don't forget to lock the door behind you (= when you leave).* ◊ *The sun disappeared behind the clouds.*—compare **IN FRONT OF** ◻ note at **BACK**

**2** making less progress than sb/sth: *He's behind the rest of the class in reading.* ◊ *We're behind schedule (= late).*

**3** giving support to or approval of sb/sth: *She knew that, whatever she decided, her family was right behind her.*

**4** responsible for starting or developing sth: *What's behind that happy smile (= what is causing it)?* ◊ *He was the man behind the plan to build a new hospital.*

**5** used to say that sth is in sb's past: *The accident is behind you now, so try to forget it.* ◊ *She has ten years' useful experience behind her.*

■ **adv.**

**1** at or towards the back of sb/sth; further back: *She rode off down the road with the dog running behind.* ◊ *The others are a long way behind.* ◊ *He was shot from behind as he ran away.* ◊ *I had fallen so far behind that it seemed pointless trying to catch up.*

**2** in the place where sb/sth is or was: *I was told to **stay behind** after school (= remain in school).* ◊ *This bag was **left behind** after the class.*

**3** ~ (**with / in sth**) late in paying money or completing work: *She's **fallen behind** with the payments.* ◊ *He was terribly behind in his work.*

■ **noun (informal)** a person's bottom. People often say 'behind' to avoid saying 'bottom'.

**SYN** **BACKSIDE:** *The dog bit him on his behind.*

**around** /əˈraʊnd/ *adv., prep.*

■ **adv.**

For the special uses of **around** in phrasal verbs, look at the entries for the verbs. For example **come around to sth** is in the phrasal verb section at **come**.

**1** approximately: *He arrived around five o'clock.* ◊ *The cost would be somewhere around £1 500.*

**2** on every side; surrounding sb/sth: *I could hear laughter all around.* ◊ *a yard with a fence all around*

**3** (*especially AmE*) (*BrE usually round*) moving in a circle: *How do you make the wheels go around?*

**4** (*especially AmE*) (*BrE usually round*) measured in a circle: *an old tree that was at least ten feet around*

**5** in or to many places: *We were all running around trying to get ready in time.* ◊ *This is our*

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*new office—Kay will show you around.* ◊ *There were papers lying around all over the floor.*

**6** used to describe activities that have no real purpose: *There were several young people sitting around looking bored.*

**7** present in a place; available: *There was more money around in those days.* ◊ *I knocked but there was no one around.* ◊ *Digital television has been around for some time now.*

**8** active and well known in a sport, profession, etc: *a new tennis champion who could be around for a long time* ◊ *She's been around as a film director since the 1980s.*

**9** (especially AmE) (BrE usually **round**) in a circle or curve to face another way or the opposite way: *She turned the car around and drove off.* ◊ *They looked around when he called.*—see also ABOUT, ROUND

**have been around** to have gained knowledge and experience of the world

■ **prep.** (especially AmE) (BrE usually **round**)

**1** surrounding sb/sth; on each side of sth: *The house is built around a central courtyard.* ◊ *He put his arms around her.*

**2** on, to or from the other side of sb/sth: *Our house is just around the corner.* ◊ *The bus came around the bend.* ◊ *There must be a way around the problem.*

**3** in a circle: *They walked around the lake.*

**4** to fit in with particular people, ideas, etc: *I can't arrange everything around your timetable!*

**5** in or to many places in an area: *They walked around the town looking for a place to eat.*

WHICH WORD?

around / round / about



Around and round can often be used with the same meaning in BrE, though around is more formal: *The earth goes round/around the sun.* ◊ *They live round/around the corner.* ◊ *We travelled round /around India.* ◊ *She turned round/around when I came in.* In AmE only around can be used in these meanings.

Around, round and about can also sometimes be used with the same meaning in BrE: *The kids were running around/round/about outside.* ◊ *I've been waiting around/round/about to see her all day.* In AmE only around can be used in these meanings. About or around can be used in both BrE and AmE to mean 'approximately': *We left around/about 8 o'clock.*

**below** /bɪˈloʊ/; AmE bɪˈloʊ/ prep., adv.

■ **prep.**

**1** at or to a lower level or position than sb/sth: *He dived below the surface of the water.* ◊ *Please do not write below this line.* ◊ *Skirts will be worn below (= long enough to cover) the knee.*

**2** of a lower amount or standard than sb/sth: *The temperatures remained below freezing all day.* ◊ *Her work was well below average for the class.*

**3** of a lower rank or of less importance than sb/sth: *A police sergeant is below an inspector.* ◊ *They're two places below Chelsea in the table.* □ note at UNDER

■ **adv.**

**1** at or to a lower level, position or place: *They live on the floor below.* ◊ *I could still see the airport buildings far below.* ◊ *See below (= at the bottom of the page) for references.* ◊ *The*

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passengers who felt seasick stayed below (= on a lower deck).

- 2 (of a temperature) lower than zero: *The thermometer had dropped to a record 40 below (= -40 degrees).*
- 3 at a lower rank: *This ruling applies to the ranks of Inspector and below.*

**through** /θruː/ prep., adv., adj.

■ prep.

- 1 from one end or side of sth/sb to the other: *The burglar got in through the window.* ◊ *The bullet went straight through him.* ◊ *Her knees had gone through (= made holes in) her jeans.* ◊ *The sand ran through (= between) my fingers.* ◊ *The path led through the trees to the river.* ◊ *The doctor pushed his way through the crowd.* ◊ *The Charles River flows through Boston.*
- 2 see, hear, etc. ~ sth to see, hear, etc. sth from the other side of an object or a substance: *I couldn't hear their conversation through the wall.* ◊ *He could just make out three people through the mist.*
- 3 from the beginning to the end of an activity, a situation or a period of time: *The children are too young to sit through a concert.* ◊ *He will not live through the night.* ◊ *I'm halfway through (= reading) her second novel.*
- 4 past a barrier, stage or test: *Go through this gate, and you'll see the house on your left.* ◊ *He drove through a red light (= passed it when he should have stopped).* ◊ *First I have to get through the exams.* ◊ *The bill had a difficult passage through Parliament.* ◊ *I'd never have got through it all (= a difficult situation) without you.*
- 5 (also *informal thru*) (both *AmE*) until, and including: *We'll be in New York Tuesday through Friday.* □ note at **INCLUSIVE**
- 6 by means of; because of: *You can only achieve success through hard work.* ◊ *It was through him (= as a result of his help) that I got the job.* ◊ *The accident happened through no fault of mine.*

■ adv.

- 1 from one end or side of sth to the other: *Put the coffee in the filter and let the water run through.* ◊ *The tyre's flat—the nail has gone right through.* ◊ *The onlookers stood aside to let the paramedics through.* ◊ *The flood was too deep to drive through.*
- 2 from the beginning to the end of a thing or period of time: *Don't tell me how it ends—I haven't read it all the way through yet.* ◊ *I expect I'll struggle through until pay day.*
- 3 past a barrier, stage or test: *The lights were red but he drove straight through.* ◊ *Our team is through to (= has reached) the semi-finals.*
- 4 travelling through a place without stopping or without people having to get off one train and onto another: *'Did you stop in Oxford on the way?' 'No, we drove straight through.'* ◊ *This train goes straight through to York.*
- 5 connected by telephone: *Ask to be put through to me personally.* ◊ *I tried to call you but I couldn't get through.*
- 6 used after an adjective to mean 'completely': *We got wet through.*
- through and through** completely; in every way: *He's British through and through.*

■ adj.

- 1 [only before noun] **through** traffic travels from one side of a place to the other without stopping
- 2 [only before noun] a **through** train takes you to the final place you want to get to and you do not have to get off and get on another train
- 3 [only before noun] a **through** road or route is open at both ends and allows traffic to travel from one end to the other: *The village lies on a busy through road.* ◊ **No through road** (= the road is closed at one end).

## COMPLETE LIST OF PREPOSITIONS AND THEIR USES by Seyfi

□ 4 [not before noun] ~ (with sth/sb) (especially AmE) used to show that you have finished using sth or have ended a relationship with sb: *Are you through with that newspaper?* ◊ *Todd and I are through.*

**underneath** /ˌʌndəˈniːθ; AmE -dɜːn-/ prep., adv., noun

■ prep., adv.

□ 1 under or below sth else, especially when it is hidden or covered by the thing on top: *The coin rolled underneath the piano.* ◊ *This jacket's too big, even with a sweater underneath.*

□ 2 used to talk about sb's real feelings or character, as opposed to the way they seem to be: *Underneath her cool exterior she was really very frightened.* ◊ *He seems bad-tempered, but he's very soft-hearted underneath.* □ note at UNDER

■ noun (the underneath) [sing.] the lower surface or part of sth: *She pulled the drawer out and examined the underneath carefully.*

**up** /ʌp/ adv., prep., adj., verb, noun

adv.

□ 1 towards or in a higher position: *He jumped up from his chair.* ◊ *The sun was already up (= had risen) when they set off.* ◊ *They live up in the mountains.* ◊ *It didn't take long to put the tent up.* ◊ *I pinned the notice up on the wall.* ◊ *Lay the cards face up (= facing upwards) on the table.* ◊ *You look nice with your hair up (= arranged on top of or at the back of your head).* ◊ (spoken) *Up you come!* (= said when lifting a child).

□ 2 to or at a higher level: *She turned the volume up.* ◊ *Prices are still going up (= rising).* ◊ *United were 3-1 up at half time.* ◊ *The wind is getting up (= blowing more strongly).* ◊ *Sales are well up on last year.*

□ 3 to the place where sb/sth is: *A car drove up and he got in.* ◊ *She went straight up to the door and knocked loudly.*

□ 4 to or at an important place, especially a large city: *We're going up to New York for the day.* ◊ (BrE, formal) *His son's up at Oxford (= Oxford University).*

□ 5 to a place in the north of a country: *They've moved up north.* ◊ *We drove up to Inverness to see my father.*

□ 6 into pieces or parts: *She tore the paper up.* ◊ *They've had the road up (= with the surface broken or removed) to lay some pipes.* ◊ *How shall we divide up the work?*

□ 7 completely: *We ate all the food up.* ◊ *The stream has dried up.*

□ 8 so as to be formed or brought together: *The government agreed to set up a committee of inquiry.* ◊ *She gathered up her belongings.*

□ 9 so as to be finished or closed: *I have some paperwork to finish up.* ◊ *Do your coat up; it's cold.*

□ 10 (of a period of time) finished; over: *Time's up. Stop writing and hand in your papers.*

□ 11 out of bed: *I stayed up late (= did not go to bed until late) last night.* ◊ (BrE) *He's up and about again after his illness.*

□ 12 (spoken) used to say that sth is happening, especially sth unusual or unpleasant: *I could tell something was up by the looks on their faces.* ◊ *What's up? (= What is the matter?)* ◊ *What's up with him? He looks furious.* ◊ *Is anything up? You can tell me.*

In AmE

□ **What's up?** can just mean 'What's new?' or 'What's happening?' There may not be anything wrong.

□ **be up to sb** to be sb's duty or responsibility; to be for sb to decide: *It's not up to you to tell me how to do my job.* ◊ *Shall we eat out or stay in? It's up to you.*

□ **not be up to much** (BrE) to be of poor quality; to not be very good: *His work isn't up to much.*

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**up against sth** (*informal*) facing problems or opposition: *Teachers are up against some major problems these days.* ◊ *She's really up against it (= in a difficult situation).*

**up and down**

**1** moving upwards and downwards: *The boat bobbed up and down on the water.*

**2** in one direction and then in the opposite direction: *She was pacing up and down in front of her desk.*

**3** sometimes good and sometimes bad: *My relationship with him was up and down.*

**up and running** (of a system, for example a computer system) working; being used: *By that time the new system should be up and running.*

**up before sb/sth** appearing in front of sb in authority for a judgement to be made about sth that you have done: *He came up before the local magistrate for speeding.*

**up for sth**

**1** on offer for sth: *The house is up for sale.*

**2** being considered for sth, especially as a candidate: *Two candidates are up for election.*

**3** willing to take part in a particular activity: *We're going clubbing tonight. Are you up for it?*

**up to sth**

**1** as far as a particular number, level, etc: *I can take up to four people (= but no more than four) in my car.* ◊ *The temperature went up to 35°C.*

**2** (also **up until sth**) not further or later than sth; until sth: *Read up to page 100.* ◊ *Up to now he's been very quiet.*

**3** as high or as good as sth: *Her latest book isn't up to her usual standard.*

**4** (also **up to doing sth**) physically or mentally capable of sth: *He's not up to the job.* ◊ *I don't feel up to going to work today.*

**5** (*spoken*) doing sth, especially sth bad: *What's she up to?* ◊ *What've you been up to?* ◊ *I'm sure he's up to no good (= doing sth bad).*

■ *prep.*

**1** to or in a higher position somewhere: *She climbed up the flight of steps.* ◊ *The village is further up the valley.*

**2** along or further along a road or street: *We live just up the road, past the post office.*

**3** towards the place where a river starts: *a cruise up the Rhine*

**up and down sth** in one direction and then in the opposite direction along sth: *I looked up and down the corridor.*

**up yours!** ( $\Delta$ , *slang*) an offensive way of being rude to sb, for example because they have said sth that makes you angry

■ *adj.*

**1** [only before noun] directed or moving upwards: *an up stroke* ◊ *the up escalator*

**2** [not before noun] (*informal*) cheerful; happy or excited: *The mood here is resolutely up.*

**3** [not before noun] (of a computer system) working: *Our system should be up by this afternoon.*

■ *verb (-pp-)*

**1** [v] (up and ...) (*informal* or *humorous*) to suddenly move or do sth unexpected: *He upped and left without telling anyone.*

**2** [vn] to increase the price or amount of sth

**SYN RAISE:** *The buyers upped their offer by £1 000.*

**up sticks** (*BrE, informal*) to suddenly move from your house and go to live somewhere else: *He upped sticks and went back to France.*—more at ANTE

■ *noun*

**on the up** increasing or improving: *Business confidence is on the up.*

**on the up and up** (*informal*)

## COMPLETE LIST OF PREPOSITIONS AND THEIR USES by Seyfi

- 1 (BrE) becoming more and more successful: *The club has been on the up and up since the beginning of the season.*
- 2 (AmE) = ON THE LEVEL at LEVEL *n*: *The offer seems to be on the up and up.*
- ups and downs** the mixture of good and bad things in life or in a particular situation or relationship: *Every business has its ups and downs.*

**out** /aʊt/ *adv., prep., noun, verb*

*adv., prep.*

- 1 ~ (of sth) away from the inside of a place or thing: *She ran out into the corridor.* ◊ *She shook the bag and some coins fell out.* ◊ *I got out of bed.* ◊ *He opened the box and out jumped a frog.* ◊ **Out you go!** (= used to order sb to leave a room) ◊ (spoken, non-standard) *He ran out the door.*
- 2 ~ (of sth) (of people) away from or not at home or their place of work: *I called Liz but she was out.* ◊ *Let's go out this evening* (= for example to a restaurant or club). ◊ *We haven't had a night out for weeks.* ◊ *Mr Green is out of town this week.*
- 3 ~ (of sth) away from the edge of a place: *The boy dashed out into the road.* ◊ *Don't lean out of the window.*
- 4 ~ (of sth) a long or a particular distance away from a place or from land: *She's working out in Australia.* ◊ *He lives right out in the country.* ◊ *The boats are all out at sea.* ◊ *The ship sank ten miles out of Stockholm.*
- 5 ~ (of sth) used to show that sth/sb is removed from a place, job, etc: *This detergent is good for getting stains out.* ◊ *We want this government out.* ◊ *He got thrown out of the restaurant.*
- 6 ~ of sth used to show that sth comes from or is obtained from sth/sb: *He drank his beer out of the bottle.* ◊ *a statue made out of bronze* ◊ *a romance straight out of a fairy tale* ◊ *I paid for the damage out of my savings.* ◊ *We'll get the truth out of her.*
- 7 ~ of sth used to show that sb/sth does not have any of sth: *We're out of milk.* ◊ *He's been out of work for six months.* ◊ *You're out of luck—she left ten minutes ago.*
- 8 ~ of sth used to show that sb/sth is not or no longer in a particular state or condition: *Try and stay out of trouble.* ◊ *I watched the car until it was out of sight.*
- 9 ~ (of sth) used to show that sb is no longer involved in sth: *It was an awful job and I'm glad to be out of it.* ◊ *He gets out of the army in a few weeks.* ◊ *They'll be out* (= of prison) *on bail in no time.* ◊ *Brown goes on to the semi-finals but Lee is out.*
- 10 ~ of sth used to show the reason why sth is done: *I asked out of curiosity.* ◊ *She did it out of spite.*
- 11 ~ of sth from a particular number or set: *You scored six out of ten.* ◊ *Two out of three people think the President should resign.*
- 12 (of a book, etc.) not in the library; borrowed by sb else: *The book you wanted is out on loan.*
- 13 (of the TIDE) at or towards its lowest point on land: *I like walking on the wet sand when the tide is out.*
- 14 if the sun, moon or stars are or come out, they can be seen from the earth and are not hidden by clouds
- 15 (of flowers) fully open: *There should be some snowdrops out by now.*
- 16 available to everyone; known to everyone: *When does her new book come out?* ◊ **Word always gets out** (= people find out about things) *no matter how careful you are.* ◊ **Out with it!** (= say what you know)
- 17 clearly and loudly so that people can hear: *to call / cry / shout out* ◊ *Read it out loud.* ◊ *Nobody spoke out in his defence.*



## COMPLETE LIST OF PREPOSITIONS AND THEIR USES by Seyfi

- 18** (*informal*) having told other people that you are **HOMOSEXUAL**: *I had been out since I was 17.*
- 19** (in cricket, baseball, etc.) if a team or team member is **out**, it is no longer their turn with the bat: *The West Indies were all out for 364 (= after scoring 364 RUNS in cricket).*
- 20** (in tennis, etc.) if the ball is **out**, it landed outside the line: *The umpire said the ball was out.*
- 21** ~ (**in sth**) not correct or exact; wrong: *I was slightly out in my calculations.* ◊ *Your guess was a long way out (= completely wrong).* ◊ *The estimate was out by more than \$100.*
- 22** not possible or not allowed: *Swimming is out until the weather gets warmer.*
- 23** not fashionable: *Is rap out yet?*
- 24** (of fire, lights or burning materials) not or no longer burning or lit: *Suddenly all the lights went out.* ◊ *The fire had burnt itself out.* ◊ *He stubbed his cigarette out.*
- 25** at an end: *It was summer and school was out.* ◊ *She was to regret her words before the day was out.*
- 26** unconscious: *He was out for more than an hour and came round in the hospital.* ◊ *She was knocked out cold.*
- 27** (*BrE, informal*) on strike: *The dockers stayed out for several months.*
- 28** to the end; completely: *Hear me out before you say anything.* ◊ *We left them to fight it out (= settle a dispute by fighting or arguing).*—see also **ALL-OUT**
- be out for sth / to do sth** to be trying to get or do sth: *I'm not out for revenge.* ◊ *She's out for what she can get (= trying to get something for herself).* ◊ *The company is out to capture the Canadian market.*
- out and about** (*BrE*)
- 1** able to go outside again after an illness
- 2** travelling around a place: *We've been out and about talking to people all over the country.*
- out of it** (*informal*)
- 1** sad because you are not included in sth: *We've only just moved here so we feel a little out of it.*
- 2** not aware of what is happening, usually because of drinking too much alcohol, or taking drugs: *He looks completely out of it.*
- **noun**  
see **IN n**.
- **verb [vn]** to say publicly that sb is **HOMOSEXUAL**, especially when they would prefer to keep the fact a secret: *He is the latest politician to be outed by gay activists.*
- onto** (also **on to**) /'ɒntə; before vowels 'ɒntu; AmE 'ɑːn-; 'ɔːn-/ *prep.* used with verbs to express movement on or to a particular place or position: *Move the books onto the second shelf.* ◊ *She stepped down from the train onto the platform.*
- be onto sb**
- 1** (*informal*) to know about what sb has done wrong: *She knew the police would be onto them.*
- 2** to be talking to sb, usually in order to ask or tell them sth: *They've been onto me for ages to get a job.*
- be onto sth** to know about sth or be in a situation that could lead to a good result for you: *Scientists believe they are onto something big.* ◊ *She's onto a good thing with that new job.*

**by** /baɪ/ *prep., adv.*

■ **prep.**

- 1** near sb/sth; at the side of sb/sth; beside sb/sth: *a house by the river* ◊ *The telephone is by the window.* ◊ *Come and sit by me.*
- 2** used, usually after a passive verb, to show who or what does, creates or causes sth: *He was*

## COMPLETE LIST OF PREPOSITIONS AND THEIR USES by Seyfi

*knocked down by a bus. ◊ a play by Ibsen ◊ Who's that book by? ◊ I was frightened by the noise.*

**3** used for showing how or in what way sth is done: *The house is heated by gas. ◊ May I pay by cheque? ◊ I will contact you by letter. ◊ to travel by boat / bus / car / plane ◊ to travel by air / land / sea ◊ Switch it on by pressing this button.*

**4** used before particular nouns without *the*, to say that sth happens as a result of sth: *They met by chance. ◊ I did it by mistake. ◊ The coroner's verdict was 'death by misadventure'.*

**5** not later than the time mentioned; before: *Can you finish the work by five o'clock? ◊ I'll have it done by tomorrow. ◊ By this time next week we'll be in New York. ◊ He ought to have arrived by now / by this time. ◊ By the time (that) this letter reaches you I will have left the country.*

**6** past sb/sth: *He walked by me without speaking.*

**7** during sth; in a particular situation: *to travel by day / night ◊ We had to work by candlelight.*

**8** used to show the degree or amount of sth: *The bullet missed him by two inches. ◊ House prices went up by 10%. ◊ It would be better by far (= much better) to ...*

**9** from what sth shows or says; according to sth: *By my watch it is two o'clock. ◊ I could tell by the look on her face that something terrible had happened. ◊ By law, you are a child until you are 18.*

**10** used to show the part of sb/sth that sb touches, holds, etc: *I took him by the hand. ◊ She seized her by the hair. ◊ Pick it up by the handle!*

**11** used with *the* to show the period or quantity used for buying, selling or measuring sth: *We rented the car by the day. ◊ They're paid by the hour. ◊ We only sell it by the metre.*

**12** used to state the rate at which sth happens: *They're improving day by day. ◊ We'll do it bit by bit. ◊ The children came in two by two (= in groups of two).*

**13** used for giving more information about where sb comes from, what sb does, etc: *He's German by birth. ◊ They're both doctors by profession.*

**14** used when swearing to mean 'in the name of': *I swear by Almighty God ...*

**15** used to show the measurements of sth: *The room measures fifteen feet by twenty feet.*

**16** used when multiplying or dividing: *6 multiplied by 2 equals 12. ◊ 6 divided by 2 equals 3.*

**by the by / bye = BY THE WAY at WAY**

■ **adv.**

**1** past: *Just drive by. Don't stop. ◊ He hurried by without speaking to me. ◊ Excuse me, I can't get by. ◊ Time goes by so quickly.*

**2** used to say that sth is saved so that it can be used in the future: *I've put some money by for college fees.*

**3** in order to visit sb for a short time: *I'll come by this evening and pick up the books.*

**by and by (old-fashioned)** before long; soon: *By and by she met an old man with a beard.*

**above** /əˈbʌv/ *prep., adv., adj.*

■ **prep.**

**1** at or to a higher place or position than sb/sth: *The water came above our knees. ◊ We were flying above the clouds. ◊ the people in the apartment above mine ◊ A captain in the navy ranks above a captain in the army. ◊ They finished the year six places above their local rivals.*

**2** more than sth; greater in number, level or age than sb/sth: *Inflation is above 6%. ◊ Temperatures have been above average. ◊ We cannot accept children above the age of 10.*

**3** of greater importance or of higher quality than sb/sth: *I rate her above most other players of her age.*

**4** too good or too honest to do sth: *She's not above lying when it suits her. ◊ He's above suspicion (= he is completely trusted).*

## COMPLETE LIST OF PREPOSITIONS AND THEIR USES by Seyfi

**5** (of a sound) louder or clearer than another sound: *I couldn't hear her above the noise of the traffic.*

**above** **all** most important of all; especially: *Above all, make sure you keep in touch.*

**above yourself** (*disapproving*) having too high an opinion of yourself—more at **OVER prep.**

■ **adv.**

**1** at or to a higher place: *Put it on the shelf above.* ◊ *Seen from above the cars looked tiny.* ◊ *They were acting on instructions from above (= from sb in a higher position of authority).*

**2** greater in number, level or age: *increases of 5% and above* ◊ *A score of 70 or above will get you an 'A'.* ◊ *children aged 12 and above*

**3** earlier in sth written or printed: *As was stated above ...* ◊ *See above, page 97.*

■ **adj.** [only before noun] mentioned or printed previously in a letter, book, etc: *Please write to us at the above address.*

► **the above** **noun** [sing.+ sing./pl. v.]: *Please notify us if the above is not correct.* ◊ *All the above (= people mentioned above) have passed the exam.*

WHICH WORD?

above / over



Above and over can both be used to describe a position higher than something: *They built a new room above/over the garage.* When you are talking about movement from one side of something to the other, you can only use over: *They jumped over the stream.* Over can also mean 'covering': *He put a blanket over the sleeping child.*

Above and over can also mean 'more than'. Above is used in relation to a minimum level or a fixed point: *2 000 feet above sea level* ◊ *Temperatures will not rise above zero tonight.* Over is used with numbers, ages, money and time: *He's over 50.* ◊ *It costs over £100.* ◊ *We waited over 2 hours.*

**be·fore** /bɪˈfɔː(r)/ *prep., conj., adv.*

■ **prep.**

**1** earlier than sb/sth: *before lunch* ◊ *the day before yesterday* ◊ *The year before last he won a gold medal, and the year before that he won a silver.* ◊ *She's lived there since before the war.* ◊ *He arrived before me.* ◊ *She became a lawyer as her father had before her.* ◊ *Leave your keys at reception before departure.* ◊ *Something ought to have been done before now.* ◊ *We'll know before long (= soon).* ◊ *Turn left just before (= before you reach) the bank.*

**2** (*rather formal*) used to say that sb/sth is in a position in front of sb/sth: *They knelt before the throne.* ◊ *Before you is a list of the points we have to discuss.—compare **BEHIND***

**3** used to say that sb/sth is ahead of sb/sth in an order or arrangement: *Your name is before mine on the list.* ◊ *He puts his work before everything (= regards it as more important than anything else).*

**4** used to say that sth is facing sb in the future: *The task before us is a daunting one.* ◊ *The whole summer lay before me.*

**5** in the presence of sb who is listening, watching, etc: *He was brought before the judge.* ◊ *She said it before witnesses.* ◊ *They had the advantage of playing before their home crowd.*

**6** (*formal*) used to say how sb reacts when they have to face sb/sth: *They retreated before the enemy.*

## COMPLETE LIST OF PREPOSITIONS AND THEIR USES by Seyfi

### ■conj.

- 1 earlier than the time when: *Do it before you forget.* ◊ *Did she leave a message before she went?* ◊ *Before I made a decision, I thought carefully about it.*
  - 2 until: *It may be many years before the situation improves.* ◊ *It was some time before I realized the truth.*
  - 3 used to warn or threaten sb that sth bad could happen: *Put that away before it gets broken.*
  - 4 (formal) rather than: *I'd die before I apologized to them!*
- adv. at an earlier time; in the past; already: *You should have told me so before.* ◊ *It had been fine the week before (= the previous week).* ◊ *That had happened long before (= a long time earlier).* ◊ *I think we've met before.*

**after** /ɑːftə(r); AmE æf-/ prep., conj., adv., adj.

### ■prep.

- 1 later than sth; following sth in time: *We'll leave after lunch.* ◊ *They arrived shortly after 5.* ◊ *Not long after that he resigned.* ◊ *Let's meet the day after tomorrow / the week after next.* ◊ *After winning the prize she became famous overnight.* ◊ *After an hour I went home (= when an hour had passed).* ◊ (AmE) *It's ten after seven in the morning (= 7.10 a.m.)*
- 2 (... after ...) used to show that sth happens many times or continuously: *day after day of hot weather* ◊ *I've told you time after time not to do that.*—see also one after another at ONE
- 3 behind sb when they have left; following sb: *Shut the door after you.* ◊ *I'm always having to clean up after the children (= clean the place after they have left it dirty and untidy).* ◊ *He ran after her with the book.* ◊ *She was left staring after him.*
- 4 next to and following sb/sth in order or importance: *Your name comes after mine in the list.* ◊ *He's the tallest, after Richard.* ◊ *After you (= Please go first).* ◊ *After you with the paper. (= Can I have it next?)*
- 5 in contrast to sth: *It was pleasantly cool in the house after the sticky heat outside.*
- 6 as a result of or because of sth that has happened: *I'll never forgive him after what he said.*
- 7 in spite of sth; although sth has happened: *I can't believe she'd do that, not after all I've done for her.*
- 8 trying to find or catch sb/sth: *The police are after him.* ◊ *He's after a job at our place.*
- 9 about sb/sth: *She asked after you (= how you were).*
- 10 in the style of sb/sth; following the example of sb/sth: *a painting after Goya* ◊ *We named the baby 'Ena' after her grandmother.*
- 11 (after-) (used in adjectives) happening or done later than the time or event mentioned: *after-hours drinking (= after closing time)* ◊ *an after-school club* ◊ *after-dinner mints*

### after all

- 1 in spite of what has been said or expected: *So you made it after all!*
- 2 used when you are explaining sth, or giving a reason: *He should have paid. He suggested it, after all.*

### be after doing sth (IrishE)

- 1 to be going to do sth soon; to be intending to do sth soon
- 2 to have just done sth

■conj. at a time later than sth; when sth has finished: *I'll call you after I've spoken to them.* ◊ *Several years after they'd split up they met again by chance in Paris.*

■adv. later in time; afterwards: *That was in 1996. Soon after, I heard that he'd died.* ◊ *I could come next week, or the week after.* ◊ *And they all lived happily ever after.*

■adj. [only before noun] (old use) following; later: *in after years*

## COMPLETE LIST OF PREPOSITIONS AND THEIR USES by Seyfi

**against** /əˈɡeɪnst; əˈdʒeɪnst/ prep.

- 1 opposing or disagreeing with sb/sth: *the fight against terrorism* ◊ *We're playing against the league champions next week.* ◊ *We were rowing against the current.* ◊ *That's against the law.* ◊ *She was forced to marry against her will.* ◊ *Are you for or against the death penalty?* ◊ *She is against seeing (= does not want to see) him.* ◊ *I'd advise you against doing that.*
- 2 not to the advantage or favour of sb/sth: *The evidence is against him.* ◊ *Her age is against her.*—compare FOR prep. (7)
- 3 close to, touching or hitting sb/sth: *Put the piano there, against the wall.* ◊ *The rain beat against the windows.*
- 4 in order to prevent sth from happening or to reduce the harm caused by sth: *an injection against rabies* ◊ *They took precautions against fire.* ◊ *Are we insured against theft?*
- 5 with sth in the background, as a contrast: *His red clothes stood out clearly against the snow.* ◊ (figurative) *The love story unfolds against a background of civil war.*
- 6 used when you are comparing two things: *You must weigh the benefits against the cost.* ◊ *Check your receipts against the statement.* ◊ *What's the rate of exchange against the dollar?*

**among** /əˈmʌŋ/ (also **amongst** /əˈmʌŋst/) prep.

- 1 surrounded by sb/sth; in the middle of sb/sth: *a house among the trees* ◊ *They strolled among the crowds.* ◊ *I found the letter amongst his papers.* ◊ *It's OK, you're among friends now.*
- 2 being included or happening in groups of things or people: *A British woman was among the survivors.* ◊ *He was among the last to leave.* ◊ *This attitude is common among the under-25s.* ◊ *'What was wrong with the job?' 'Well, the pay wasn't good, among other things.'* ◊ *Discuss it among yourselves first (= with each other).*
- 3 used when you are dividing or choosing sth, and three or more people or things are involved: *They divided the money up among the children.*

**beside** /bɪˈsaɪd/ prep.

- 1 next to or at the side of sb/sth: *He sat beside her all night.* ◊ *a mill beside a stream*
- 2 compared with sb/sth: *My painting looks childish beside yours.*
- beside yourself (with sth)** unable to control yourself because of the strength of emotion you are feeling: *He was beside himself with rage when I told him what I had done.* ◊ *They were beside themselves with excitement.*

WHICH WORD?

beside / besides



The preposition *beside* usually means 'next to something/somebody' or 'at the side of something/somebody': *Sit here beside me.* *Besides* means 'in addition to something': *What other sports do you play besides hockey?* Do not use *beside* with this meaning.

The adverb *besides* is not usually used on its own with the same meaning as the preposition. It is mainly used to give another reason or argument for something: *I don't think I'll come on Saturday. I have a lot of work to do. Besides, I don't really like parties.*

◊ *She likes football. Besides, she likes tennis and basketball.*

## COMPLETE LIST OF PREPOSITIONS AND THEIR USES by Seyfi

**be·tween** /bɪˈtwiːn/ *prep., adv.*

■ *prep.*

- **1** in or into the space separating two or more points, objects, people, etc: *Q comes between P and R in the English alphabet.* ◊ *I sat down between Jo and Diana.* ◊ *Switzerland lies between France, Germany, Austria and Italy.* ◊ *The paper had fallen down between the desk and the wall.* ◊ (*figurative*) *My job is somewhere between a secretary and a personal assistant.*
- **2** in the period of time that separates two days, years, events, etc: *It's cheaper between 6 p.m. and 8 a.m.* ◊ *Don't eat between meals.* ◊ *Children must attend school between the ages of 5 and 16.* ◊ *Many changes took place between the two world wars.*
- **3** at some point along a scale from one amount, weight, distance, etc. to another: *It weighed between nine and ten kilos.* ◊ *The temperature remained between 25 ° C and 30 ° C all week.*
- **4** (of a line) separating one place from another: *the border between Sweden and Norway*
- **5** from one place to another: *We fly between Rome and Paris twice daily.*
- **6** used to show a connection or relationship: *a difference / distinction / contrast between two things* ◊ *a link between unemployment and crime* ◊ *There's a lot of bad feeling between them.* ◊ *I had to choose between the two jobs.*
- **7** shared by two or more people or things: *We drank a bottle of wine between us.* ◊ *This is just between you and me / between ourselves (= it is a secret).*
- **8 ~ doing sth** used to show that several activities are involved: *Between working full-time and taking care of the kids, he didn't have much time for hobbies.*

■ *adv.* (usually in between) in the space or period of time separating two or more points, objects, etc. or two dates, events, etc.: *The house was near a park but there was a road in between.* ◊ *I see her most weekends but not very often in between.*

see BETWIXT

**dur·ing** /dɪˈɹɪŋ; AmEˈdɹ-ɪ/ *prep.*

- **1** all through a period of time: *during the 1990s* ◊ *There are extra flights to Colorado during the winter.* ◊ *Please remain seated during the performance.*
- **2** at some point in a period of time: *He was taken to the hospital during the night.* ◊ *I only saw her once during my stay in Rome.*
- **During** is used to say when something happens; **for** answers the question 'how long?': *I stayed in London for a week.* ◊ *I stayed in London during a week.*

**ex·cept** /ɪkˈsept/ *prep., conj., verb*

■ *prep.* (also **except for**) used before you mention the only thing or person about which a statement is not true

**SYN** APART FROM: *We work every day except Sunday.* ◊ *They all came except Matt.* ◊ *I had nothing on except for my socks.* □ note at **BESIDES**

■ *conj.* ~ (**that ...**) used before you mention sth that makes a statement not completely true

**SYN** APART FROM THE FACT THAT: *I didn't tell him anything except that I needed the money.* ◊ *Our dresses were the same except mine was red.*

■ *verb* [vn] [usually passive] ~ **sb/sth (from sth)** (*written*) to not include sb/sth: *Children under five are excepted from the survey.* ◊ *The sanctions ban the sale of any products excepting medical supplies and food.* ◊ *Tours are arranged all year round (January excepted).*

**for** /fɔː(r); strong form fɔː(r)/ *prep., conj.*

*prep.*

## COMPLETE LIST OF PREPOSITIONS AND THEIR USES by Seyfi

- 1** used to show who is intended to have or use sth or where sth is intended to be put: *There's a letter for you.* ◊ *It's a book for children.* ◊ *We got a new table for the dining room.* ◊ *This is the place for me (= I like it very much).*
- 2** in order to help sb/sth: *What can I do for you (= how can I help you)?* ◊ *Can you translate this letter for me?* ◊ *I took her classes for her while she was sick.* ◊ *soldiers fighting for their country*
- 3** concerning sb/sth: *They are anxious for her safety.* ◊ *Fortunately for us, the weather changed.*
- 4** as a representative of: *I am speaking for everyone in this department.*
- 5** employed by: *She's working for IBM.*
- 6** meaning: *Shaking your head for 'No' is not universal.*
- 7** in support of sb/sth: *Are you for or against the proposal?* ◊ *They voted for independence in a referendum.* ◊ *There's a strong case for postponing the exam.* ◊ *I'm all for people having fun.* ◊ *'What does Naomi think about the move?' 'She's all for it.'*—compare **AGAINST** (2)
- 8** used to show purpose or function: *a machine for slicing bread* ◊ *Let's go for a walk.* ◊ *Are you learning English for pleasure or for your work?* ◊ *What did you do that for (= Why did you do that)?*
- 9** used to show a reason or cause: *The town is famous for its cathedral.* ◊ *She gave me a watch for my birthday.* ◊ *He got an award for bravery.* ◊ *I couldn't speak for laughing.* ◊ *He didn't answer for fear of hurting her.*
- 10** in order to obtain sth: *He came to me for advice.* ◊ *For more information, call this number.* ◊ *There were over fifty applicants for the job.*
- 11** in exchange for sth: *Copies are available for two dollars each.* ◊ *I'll swap these two bottles for that one.*
- 12** considering what can be expected from sb/sth: *The weather was warm for the time of year.* ◊ *She's tall for her age.* ◊ *He's not bad for a beginner.* ◊ *That's too much responsibility for a child.*
- 13 better, happier, etc.** ~ sth better, happier, etc. following sth: *You'll feel better for a good night's sleep.* ◊ *This room would look more cheerful for a spot of paint.*
- 14** used to show where sb/sth is going: *Is this the bus for Chicago?* ◊ *She knew she was destined for a great future.*
- 15** used to show a length of time: *I'm going away for a few days.* ◊ *That's all the news there is for now.*
- 16** used to show that sth is arranged or intended to happen at a particular time: *an appointment for May 12* ◊ *We're invited for 7.30.*
- 17** used to show the occasion when sth happens: *I'm warning you for the last time—stop talking!*
- 18** used to show a distance: *The road went on for miles and miles.*
- 19** used to say how difficult, necessary, pleasant, etc. sth is that sb might do or has done: *It's useless for us to continue.* ◊ *There's no need for you to go.* ◊ *For her to have survived such an ordeal was remarkable.* ◊ *The box is too heavy for me to lift.* ◊ *Is it clear enough for you to read?*
- 20** used to show who can or should do sth: *It's not for me to say why he left.* ◊ *How to spend the money is for you to decide.*
- be 'in for it** (BrE also **be 'for it**) (*informal*) to be going to get into trouble or be punished: *We'd better hurry or we'll be in for it.*
- for 'all**
- 1** in spite of: *For all its clarity of style, the book is not easy reading.*
- 2** used to say that sth is not important or of no interest or value to you/sb: *For all I know*

## COMPLETE LIST OF PREPOSITIONS AND THEIR USES by Seyfi

*she's still living in Boston.* ◊ *You can do what you like, for all I care.* ◊ *For all the good it's done we might as well not have bothered.*

**there's / that's ... for you** (often ironic) used to say that sth is a typical example of its kind: *She might at least have called to explain. There's gratitude for you.*

**conj.** (old-fashioned or literary) used to introduce the reason for sth mentioned in the previous statement: *We listened eagerly, for he brought news of our families.* ◊ *I believed her—for surely she would not lie to me.*

**from** /frɒm; strong form frɒm; AmE frʌm; frɑːm/ prep.

**1** used to show where sb/sth starts: *She began to walk away from him.* ◊ *Has the train from Bristol arrived?*

**2** used to show when sth starts: *We're open from 8 to 7 every day.* ◊ *He was blind from birth.*

**3** used to show who sent or gave sth/sb: *a letter from my brother* ◊ *information from witnesses* ◊ *the man from (= representing) the insurance company*

**4** used to show what the origin of sb/sth is: *I'm from Italy.* ◊ *documents from the sixteenth century* ◊ *quotations from Shakespeare* ◊ *heat from the sun*

**5** used to show the material that sth is made of: *Steel is made from iron.*

**6** used to show how far apart two places are: *100 metres from the scene of the accident*

**7** used to show sb's position or point of view: *You can see the island from here.* ◊ *From a financial point of view the project was a disaster.*

**8 ~ sth (to sth)** used to show the range of sth: *The temperature varies from 30 degrees to minus 20.* ◊ *The store sells everything from shoelaces to computers.* ◊ *Conditions vary from school to school.*

**9 ~ sth (to sth)** used to show the state or form of sth/sb before a change: *Things have gone from bad to worse.* ◊ *translating from English to Spanish* ◊ *You need a break from routine.*

**10** used to show that sb/sth is separated or removed: *The party was ousted from power after eighteen years.*

**11** used to show that sth is prevented: *She saved him from drowning.*

**12** used to show the reason for sth: *She felt sick from tiredness.*

**13** used to show the reason for making a judgement: *You can tell a lot about a person from their handwriting.* ◊ *From what I heard the company's in deep trouble.*

**14** used when distinguishing between two people or things: *Is Portuguese very different from Spanish?* ◊ *I can't tell one twin from the other.*

**from ... on** starting at the time mentioned and continuously after that: **From now on** you can work on your own. ◊ *She never spoke to him again from that day on.*

**in front** adv.

**1** in a position that is further forward than sb/sth but not very far away: *Their house is the one with the big garden in front.*

**2** in first place in a race or competition: *The blue team is currently in front with a lead of six points.*

**in front of** prep.

**1** in a position that is further forward than sb/sth but not very far away: *The car in front of me stopped suddenly and I had to brake.* ◊ *The bus stops right in front of our house.* ◊ *He was standing in front of me in the line.* ◊ *She spends all day sitting in front of (= working at) her computer.* ◊ *She is now entitled to put 'Professor' in front of her name.*

**2** if you do sth **in front of** sb, you do it when they are there: *Please don't talk about it in front of the children.*

**3 ~ sb** (of time) still to come; not yet passed: *Don't give up. You still have your whole life in*



## COMPLETE LIST OF PREPOSITIONS AND THEIR USES by Seyfi

*front of you.*

### out 'front

1 in the part of a theatre, restaurant, etc. where the public sits: *There's only a small audience out front tonight.* ◊ *He cooked while she sat out front and waited tables.*

2 (also BrE informal/out the front) in the area near to the entrance to a building: *I'll wait for you out (the) front.*

### up 'front (informal)

1 as payment in advance: *We'll pay you half up front and the other half when you've finished the job.*

2 (in football) in a forward position: *to play up front*—see also UPFRONT—more at BACK *n.*, CASH *n.*, LEAD *v.*

■ *adj.* [only before noun] on or at the front of sth: *the front page of the newspaper* ◊ *front teeth* ◊ *the front wheels of the car* ◊ *We had seats in the front row.* ◊ *an animal's front legs* ◊ *Let's go through to the front room* (= the main room in a house where people sit and entertain guests). ◊ *a front-seat passenger*—compare BACK, HIND *adj.*

### WHICH WORD?

#### in front of / in the front of



In front of can mean the same as outside but not opposite: *I'll meet you in front of/outside your hotel.*  
◊ *There's a bus stop in front of the house* (= on the same side of the road). ◊ *There's a bus stop opposite the house* (= on the other side of the road).

— picture

In/at the front (of sth) means 'in the most forward part of something': *The driver sits at the front of the bus.* ◊ *Put the shortest flowers in the front (of the bunch).*

### in·side /'ɪnsaɪd/ *prep., adv., noun, adj.*

■ *prep.* (also in·side of especially in AmE)

1 on or to the inner part of sth/sb; within sth/sb: *Go inside the house.* ◊ *Inside the box was a gold watch.* ◊ *For years we had little knowledge of what life was like inside China.* ◊ *You'll feel better with a good meal inside you.* ◊ (figurative) *Inside most of us is a small child screaming for attention.*

◊ OPP OUTSIDE

2 in less than the amount of time mentioned: *The job is unlikely to be finished inside (of) a year*

■ *adv.*

1 on or to the inside: *She shook it to make sure there was nothing inside.* ◊ *We had to move inside (= indoors) when it started to rain.* ◊ (figurative) *I pretended not to care but I was screaming inside.*

◊ OPP OUTSIDE

2 (informal) in prison: *He was sentenced to three years inside.*

■ *noun*

1 [C, usually sing.] (usually the inside) the inner part, side or surface of sth: *The inside of the box was blue.* ◊ *The door was locked from the inside.* ◊ *The shell is smooth on the inside.* ◊ *the insides of the windows*

## COMPLETE LIST OF PREPOSITIONS AND THEIR USES by Seyfi

### OPP THE OUTSIDE

**2** (the inside) [sing.] the part of a road nearest the edge, that is used by slower vehicles: *He tried to overtake **on the inside**.*

### OPP THE OUTSIDE

**3** (the inside) [sing.] the part of a curved road or track nearest to the middle or shortest side of the curve: *The French runner is coming up fast **on the inside**.*

### OPP THE OUTSIDE

**4** (insides) [pl.] (*informal*) a person's stomach and bowels: *She was so nervous, her insides were like jelly.* ◊ *He complained of a pain in his insides.*

**inside out** with the part that is usually inside facing out: *You've got your sweater **on inside out**.* ◊ *Turn the bag **inside out** and let it dry.*—compare **BACK TO FRONT** at **BACK n**.

**on the inside** belonging to a group or an organization and therefore able to get information that is not available to other people: *The thieves must have had someone **on the inside** helping them.*

### turn sth inside out

**1** to make a place very untidy when you are searching for sth: *The burglars had turned the house **inside out**.*

**2** to cause large changes: *The new manager turned the old systems **inside out**.*—more at **KNOW v**.

### ■ adj. [only before noun]

**1** forming the inner part of sth; not on the outside: *the **inside** pages of a newspaper* ◊ *an **inside** pocket* ◊ *The assistant took my **inside** leg measurement.*

**2** known or done by sb in a group or an organization: ***inside** information* ◊ *Any newspaper would pay big money to get **the inside** story on her marriage.* ◊ *The robbery appeared to have been an **inside** job.*

### into /'ɪntə/; before vowels strong form 'ɪntu; strong form 'ɪntu:/ prep.

**1** to a position in or inside sth: *Come **into** the house.* ◊ *She dived **into** the water.* ◊ *He threw the letter **into** the fire.* ◊ (*figurative*) *She turned and walked off **into** the night.*

**2** in the direction of sth: *Speak clearly **into** the microphone.* ◊ *Driving **into** the sun, we had to shade our eyes.*

**3** to a point at which you hit sb/sth: *The truck crashed **into** a parked car.*

**4** to a point during a period of time: *She carried on working late **into** the night.* ◊ *He didn't get married until he was well **into** his forties.*

**5** used to show a change in state: *The fruit can be made **into** jam.* ◊ *Can you translate this passage **into** German?* ◊ *They came **into** power in 1997.* ◊ *She was sliding **into** depression.*

**6** used to show the result of an action: *He was shocked **into** a confession of guilt.*

**7** about or concerning sth: *an inquiry **into** safety procedures*

**8** used when you are dividing numbers: *3 **into** 24 is 8.*

**be into sth** (*informal*) to be interested in sth in an active way: *He's **into** surfing in a big way.*

### like /laɪk/ prep., verb, conj., noun, adj., adv.

#### prep.

**1** similar to sb/sth: *She's wearing a dress **like** mine.* ◊ *He's very **like** his father.* ◊ *She looks **nothing like** (= not at all like) her mother.* ◊ *That sounds **like** (= I think I can hear) him coming now.*

**2** used to ask sb's opinion of sb/sth: *What's it **like** studying in Spain?* ◊ *This new girlfriend of his—what's she **like**?*

## COMPLETE LIST OF PREPOSITIONS AND THEIR USES by Seyfi

- 3** used to show what is usual or typical for sb: *It's just like her to tell everyone about it.*
- 4** in the same way as sb/sth: *Students were angry at being treated like children.* ◊*He ran like the wind (= very fast).* ◊*You do it like this.* ◊*I, like everyone else, have read these stories in the press.* ◊*Don't look at me like that.* ◊*(spoken) The candles are arranged like so (= in this way).*
- 5** for example: *Utopian novels like 'Animal Farm' and '1984'* □note at AS
- more like** ... used to give a number or an amount that is more accurate than one previously mentioned: *He believes the figure should be more like \$10 million.*
- more like (it)** (informal)
- 1** better; more satisfactory: *This is more like it! Real food—not that canned muck.*
- 2** used to give what you think is a better description of sth: *Just talking? Arguing more like it.*
- **verb** (not usually used in the progressive tenses)
- 1** to find sb/sth pleasant, attractive or satisfactory; to enjoy sth: [vn] *She's nice. I like her.* ◊*Do you like their new house?* ◊*Which tie do you like best?* ◊*How did you like Japan (= did you find it pleasant)?* ◊*I don't like the way he's looking at me.* ◊*You've got to go to school, whether you like it or not.* ◊[v -ing] *She's never liked swimming.* ◊[vn -ing] *I didn't like him taking all the credit.* ◊*(formal) I didn't like his taking all the credit.* ◊[v to inf] *I like to see them enjoying themselves.* ◊[vn wh-] *I like it when you do that.*
- 2** [no passive] to prefer to do sth; to prefer sth to be made or to happen in a particular way: [v to inf] *At weekends I like to sleep late.* ◊[vn-adj] *I like my coffee strong.*
- 3** [vn] [no passive] to want: *Do what you like—I don't care.* ◊*You can dye your hair whatever colour you like.*
- 4** used in negative sentences to mean 'to be unwilling to do sth': [v to inf] *I didn't like to disturb you.* ◊[v -ing] *He doesn't like asking his parents for help.*
- 5** used with *would* or *should* as a polite way to say what you want or to ask what sb wants: [vn] *Would you like a drink?* ◊[v to inf] *I'd like to think it over.* ◊*Would you like to come with us?* ◊*(formal) We would like to apologize for the delay.* ◊*How can they afford it? That's what I'd like to know.* ◊[vn to inf] *We'd like you to come and visit us.* ◊[v] (AmE) *I'd like for us to work together.* □note at WANT
- how would you like it?** used to emphasize that sth bad has happened to you and you want some sympathy: *How would you like it if someone called you a liar?*
- if you like** (spoken)
- 1** used to politely agree to sth or to suggest sth: *'Shall we stop now?' 'If you like.'* ◊*If you like, we could go out this evening.*
- 2** used when you express sth in a new way or when you are not confident about sth: *It was, if you like, the dawn of a new era.*
- I like that!** (old-fashioned, spoken) used to protest that sth that has been said is not true or fair: *'She called you a cheat.' 'Well, I like that!'*
- I / I'd like to think** used to say that you hope or believe that sth is true: *I like to think I'm broad-minded.* ◊*I'd like to think that you were helping me because you wanted to, not because you felt you had to.*
- **conj.** (informal)
- 1** in the same way as: *No one sings the blues like she did.* ◊*It didn't turn out like I intended.* ◊*Like I said (= as I said before), you're always welcome to stay.*
- 2** as if: *She acts like she owns the place.*
- You will find more information about this use of **like** at the entries for the verbs **act**, **behave**, **feel**, **look** and **sound** and in the note at **as**.
- **noun**
- 1** (likes) [pl.] the things that you like: *We all have different likes and dislikes.*

## COMPLETE LIST OF PREPOSITIONS AND THEIR USES by Seyfi

- 2** [sing.] a person or thing that is similar to another: *jazz, rock and the like* (= similar types of music) ◊ *a man whose like we shall not see again* ◊ *You're not comparing like with like.*
- 3** (the likes of sb/sth) (*informal*) used to refer to sb/sth that is considered as a type, especially one that is considered as good as sb/sth else: *She didn't want to associate with the likes of me.*
- **adj.** [only before noun] (*formal*) having similar qualities to another person or thing: *a chance to meet people of like mind* (= with similar interests and opinions) ◊ *She responded in like manner.*
- **adv.**
- 1** used in very informal speech, for example when you are thinking what to say next, explaining sth, or giving an example of sth: *It was, like, weird.* ◊ *It was kind of scary, like.* ◊ *It's really hard. Like I have no time for my own work.*
- 2** **I'm, he's, she's, etc.** ~ (*AmE*) used in very informal speech, to mean 'I say', 'he/she says', etc: *And then I'm like 'No Way!'*
- 3** used in informal speech instead of *as* to say that sth happens in the same way: *There was silence, but not like before.* □ note at **AS**
- (as) like as not** | **like enough** | **most / very like** (*old-fashioned*) quite probably: *She would be in bed by now, as like as not.*

**near** /nɪə(r); AmE nɪr/ *adj., adv., prep., verb*

*adj.* (**near·er, near·est**)

In senses 1 to 4 **near** and **nearer** do not usually go before a noun; **nearest** can go either before or after a noun.

- 1** a short distance away

**SYN** CLOSE: *His house is very near.* ◊ *Where's the nearest bank?* □ note at **NEXT**

- 2** a short time away in the future: *The conflict is unlikely to be resolved in the near future* (= very soon).
  - 3** coming next after sb/sth: *She has a 12-point lead over her nearest rival.*
  - 4** (usually nearest) similar; most similar: *He was the nearest thing to (= the person most like) a father she had ever had.—see also O.N.O.*
  - 5** [only before noun] (no comparative or superlative) close to being sb/sth: *The election proved to be a near disaster for the party.* ◊ *a near impossibility / certainty*
  - 6** ~ **relative / relation** used to describe a close family connection: *Only the nearest relatives were present at the funeral.*
- **near·ness** noun [U]: *the nearness of death*
- your nearest and dearest** (*informal*) your close family and friends
  - a near thing** a situation in which you are successful, but which could also have ended badly: *Phew! That was a near thing! It could have been a disaster.* ◊ *We won in the end but it was a near thing.*
  - to the nearest** ... followed by a number when counting or measuring approximately: *We calculated the cost to the nearest 50 dollars.*

■ **adv.** (**near·er, near·est**)

- 1** at a short distance away: *A bomb exploded somewhere near.* ◊ *She took a step nearer.*
- 2** a short time away in the future: *The exams are drawing near.*
- 3** (especially in compounds) almost: *a near-perfect performance* ◊ *I'm as near certain as can be.*
- as near as** as accurately as: *There were about 3 000 people there, as near as I could judge.*
- as near as damn it / dammit** (*BrE, spoken*) used to say that an amount is so nearly correct that the difference does not matter: *It will cost £350, or as near as dammit.*
- near enough** (*BrE, spoken*) used to say that sth is so nearly true that the difference does not

## COMPLETE LIST OF PREPOSITIONS AND THEIR USES by Seyfi

matter: *We've been here twenty years, near enough.*

**not anywhere near / nowhere near** far from; not at all: *The job doesn't pay anywhere near enough for me.*

**so near and yet so far** used to comment on sth that was almost successful but in fact failed—more at PRETTY *adv.*

■ **prep.** (also **near to, near·er (to), near·est (to)**)

**Near to** is not usually used before the name of a place, person, festival, etc.

**1** at a short distance away from sb/sth: *Do you live near here?* ◊ *Go and sit nearer (to) the fire.* □ note at NEXT

**2** a short period of time from sth: *My birthday is very near Christmas.* ◊ *I'll think about it nearer (to) the time (= when it is just going to happen).*

**3** used before a number to mean 'approximately', 'just below or above': *Share prices are near their record high of last year.* ◊ *Profits fell from \$11 million to nearer \$8 million.*

**4** similar to sb/sth in quality, size, etc: *Nobody else comes near her in intellect.* ◊ *He's nearer 70 than 60.* ◊ *This colour is nearest (to) the original.*

**5 ~ (doing) sth** close to a particular state: *a state near (to) death* ◊ *She was near to tears (= almost crying).* ◊ *We came near to being killed.*

### WHICH WORD?

near / close



The adjectives **near** and **close** are often the same in meaning, but in some phrases only one of them may be used: *the near future* ◊ *a near neighbour* ◊ *a near miss* ◊ *a close contest* ◊ *a close encounter* ◊ *a close call*. **Close** is more often used to describe a relationship between people: *a close friend* ◊ *close family* ◊ *close links*. You do not usually use **near** in this way.

**out·side** *noun, adj., prep., adv.*

■ **noun** /ˌaʊtˈsaɪd/

**1** (usually the outside) [C, usually sing.] the outer side or surface of sth: *The outside of the house needs painting.* ◊ *You can't open the door from the outside.*

**2** [sing.] the area that is near or around a building, etc: *I walked around the outside of the building.* ◊ *I didn't go into the church—I only saw it from the outside.*

**3** [sing.] the part of a road nearest to the middle: *Always overtake on the outside.*

**4** [sing.] the part of a curving road or track furthest from the inner or shorter side of the curve

○ **OPPOSITE** THE INSIDE

**at the outside** at the most; as a **MAXIMUM**: *There was room for 20 people at the outside.*  
**on the outside**

**1** used to describe how sb appears or seems: *On the outside she seems calm, but I know she's worried.*

**2** not in prison: *Life on the outside took some getting used to again.*

■ **adj.** /ˌaʊtˈsaɪd/ [only before noun]

**1** of, on or facing the outer side

○ **SYNONYM** EXTERNAL: *The outside walls are damp.*

**2** not situated in the main building; going out of the main building

○ **SYNONYM** EXTERNAL: *an outside toilet* ◊ *You have to pay to make outside calls.* ◊ *I can't get an outside*

## COMPLETE LIST OF PREPOSITIONS AND THEIR USES by Seyfi

line.

**3** not included in or connected with your group, organization, country, etc: *We plan to use an outside firm of consultants.* ◊ *She has a lot of **outside interests** (= not connected with her work).* ◊ *They felt cut off from the **outside world** (= from other people and from other things that were happening).*

**4** used to say that sth is very unlikely: *They have only an **outside chance** of winning.* ◊ *150 is an **outside estimate** (= it is very likely to be less).*

■ **prep.** /ˌaʊtˈsaɪd/ (also **out•side of** especially in AmE)

**1** on or to a place on the outside of sth: *You can park your car **outside** our house.*

OPP **INSIDE**

**2** away from or not in a particular place: *It's the **biggest** theme park **outside** the United States.* ◊ *We live in a small village **just outside** Leeds.*

**3** not part of sth: *The matter is **outside** my area of responsibility.* ◊ *You may do as you wish **outside** working hours.*

OPP **WITHIN**

**4** (outside of) apart from: *There was nothing they could do, **outside of** hoping things would get better.*

■ **adv.** /ˌaʊtˈsaɪd/

**1** not in a room, building or container but on or to the outside of it: *I'm seeing a patient—please wait **outside**.* ◊ *The house is painted green **outside**.*

**2** not inside a building: *It's warm enough to eat **outside**.* ◊ *Go **outside** and see if it's raining.*

OPP **INSIDE**

**to** / before consonants t<sup>ə</sup>; before vowels tu; strong form tuː/ **prep., infinitive marker, adv.**

**prep.**

**1** in the direction of sth; towards sth: *I walked **to** the office.* ◊ *It fell **to** the ground.* ◊ *It was on the way **to** the station.* ◊ *He's going **to** Paris.* ◊ *my first visit **to** Africa* ◊ *He pointed to something on the opposite bank.* ◊ *Her childhood was spent travelling from place **to** place.*

**2** ~ **the sth (of sth)** situated in the direction mentioned from sth: *Place the cursor **to** the left of the first word.* ◊ *There are mountains **to** the north.*

**3** as far as sth: *The meadows lead down **to** the river.* ◊ *Her hair fell **to** her waist.*

**4** reaching a particular state: *The vegetables were cooked **to** perfection.* ◊ *He tore the letter **to** pieces.* ◊ *She sang the baby **to** sleep.* ◊ *The letter reduced her **to** tears (= made her cry).* ◊ *His expression changed from amazement **to** joy.*

**5** used to show the end or limit of a range or period of time: *a drop in profits from \$105 million **to** around \$75 million* ◊ *I'd say he was 25 **to** 30 years old (= approximately 25 or 30 years old).* ◊ *I like all kinds of music from opera **to** reggae.* ◊ *We only work from Monday **to** Friday.* ◊ *I watched the programme from beginning **to** end.*

**6** before the start of sth: *How long is it **to** lunch?* ◊ (especially BrE) *It's five **to** ten (= five minutes before ten o'clock).*

**7** used to show the person or thing that receives sth: *He gave it **to** his sister.* ◊ *I'll explain to you where everything goes.* ◊ *I am deeply grateful **to** my parents.* ◊ *Who did she address the letter **to**?* ◊ (formal) *To whom did she address the letter?*

**8** used to show the person or thing that is affected by an action: *She is devoted **to** her family.* ◊ *What have you done **to** your hair?*

**9** used to show that two things are attached or connected: *Attach this rope **to** the front of the car.*

**10** used to show a relationship between one person or thing and another: *She's married **to** an Italian.* ◊ *the Japanese ambassador **to** France* ◊ *the key **to** the door* ◊ *the solution **to** this*

## COMPLETE LIST OF PREPOSITIONS AND THEIR USES by Seyfi

*problem*

- 11** directed towards; concerning: *It was a threat to world peace.* ◊ *She made a reference to her recent book.*
- 12** used to introduce the second part of a comparison or **RATIO**: *I prefer walking to climbing.* ◊ *The industry today is nothing to what it once was.* ◊ *We won by six goals to three.*
- 13** used to show a quantity or rate: *There are 2.54 centimetres to an inch.* ◊ *This car does 30 miles to the gallon.*—compare **PER**
- 14** in honour of sb/sth: *a monument to the soldiers who died in the war* ◊ *Let's drink to Julia and her new job.*
- 15** while sth else is happening or being done: *He left the stage to prolonged applause.*
- 16** used after verbs of movement to mean 'with the intention of giving sth': *People rushed to her rescue and picked her up.*
- 17** used to show sb's attitude or reaction to sth: *His music isn't really to my taste.* ◊ *To her astonishment, he smiled.*
- 18** used to show what sb's opinion or feeling about sth is: *It sounded like crying to me.*

■ **infinitive marker**

- To** is often used before the base form of a verb to show that the verb is in the infinitive. The infinitive is used after many verbs and also after many nouns and adjectives.
- 1** used to show purpose or intention: *I set out to buy food.* ◊ *I am going to tell you a story.* ◊ *She was determined to do well.* ◊ *His aim was to become president.* ◊ *To be honest with you, I don't remember what he said.*
- 2** used to show the result of sth: *She managed to escape.* ◊ *It was too hot to go out.* ◊ *He couldn't get close enough to see.*
- 3** used to show the cause of sth: *I'm sorry to hear that.*
- 4** used to show an action that you want or are advised to do: *I'd love to go to France this summer.* ◊ *The leaflet explains how to apply for a place.* ◊ *I don't know what to say.*
- To** can also be used without a verb following when the missing verb is easy to understand: *He asked her to come but she said she didn't want to.*
- 5** used to show sth that is known or reported about a particular person or thing: *The house was said to be haunted.*
- 6** used to show that one action immediately follows another: *I reached the station only to find that my train had already left.*
- 7 am, is, are, was, were** ~ used to show that you must or should do sth: *You are not to talk during the exam.* ◊ *She was to be here at 8.30 but she didn't arrive.*

■ **adv.** (usually of a door) in or into a closed position: *Push the door to.*—see also **TOING**

- to and fro** backwards and forwards: *She rocked the baby to and fro.*

For the special uses of **to** in phrasal verbs, look at the entries for the verbs. For example **set to** is in the phrasal verb section at **set**.

**to·wards** /tə'wɔ:dz; AmE tɔ:rdz/ (also **to·ward** /tə'wɔ:d; AmE tɔ:rd/ especially in AmE) *prep.*

- 1** in the direction of sb/sth: *They were heading towards the German border.* ◊ *She had her back towards me.*
- 2** getting closer to achieving sth: *This is a first step towards political union.*
- 3** close or closer to a point in time: *towards the end of April*
- 4** in relation to sb/sth: *He was warm and tender towards her.* ◊ *our attitude towards death*
- 5** with the aim of obtaining sth, or helping sb to obtain sth: *The money will go towards a new school building (= will help pay for it).*

## COMPLETE LIST OF PREPOSITIONS AND THEIR USES by Seyfi

**on·ward** /'ɒnwəd; AmE'ɑ:nwərd; 'ɔ:n-/ *adj.* [only before noun] (*formal*) continuing or moving forward: *Ticket prices include your flight and onward rail journey.* ◊ *the onward march of time / progress*

**up·ward** /'ʌpwəd; AmE-wərd/ *adj.* [only before noun]

1 pointing towards or facing a higher place: *an upward gaze / look* ◊ *an upward curve*

2 increasing in amount or price: *a sharp upward movement in property prices* ◊ *an upward trend in the rate of unemployment*

**OPP** DOWNWARD

**down·ward** /'daʊnwəd; AmE-wərd/ *adj.* [usually before noun] moving or pointing towards a lower level: *the downward slope of a hill* ◊ *A rise in interest rates would reverse the downward trend in inflation.* ◊ *She was trapped in a downward spiral of personal unhappiness.* ◊ *The business was on a downward path, finally closing in 1998.* ◊ *Subsidence is the downward movement of a site on which a building stands.*

**OPP** UPWARD

**out·ward** /'aʊtwəd; AmE-wərd/ *adj.* [only before noun]

1 connected with the way people or things seem to be rather than with what is actually true: *Mark showed no outward signs of distress.* ◊ *She simply observes the outward forms of religion.*

◊ **To all outward appearances** (= as far as it was possible to judge from the outside) they were perfectly happy. ◊ *There were no outward signs that the house was inhabited.*

**OPP** INWARD

2 going away from a particular place, especially one that you are going to return to: *the outward voyage / journey*

3 away from the centre or a particular point: *outward pressure / movement* ◊ *outward investment* (= in other countries) ◊ *Managers need to become more outward-looking* (= more open to new ideas).

**OPP** INWARD

**in·ward** /'ɪnwəd; AmE-wərd/ *adj., adv.*

**adj.**

1 [only before noun] inside your mind and not shown to other people: *an inward smile* ◊ *Her calm expression hid her inward panic.*

2 towards the inside or centre of sth: *an inward flow* ◊ *an inward curve*

**OPP** OUTWARD

**adv.** (also **in·wards** especially in BrE)

1 towards the inside or centre: *The door opens inwards.*

2 towards yourself and your interests: *Her thoughts turned inwards.* ◊ *(disapproving) an inward-looking person* (= one who is not interested in other people)

**OPP** OUTWARDS

**for·ward** /'fɔ:wəd; AmE'fɔ:rwərd/ *adv., adj., verb, noun*

**adv.**

1 (also **for·wards** especially in BrE) towards a place or position that is in front: *She leaned forward and kissed him on the cheek.* ◊ *He took two steps forward.* ◊ *They ran forward to welcome her.*

**OPP** BACK, BACKWARDS

2 towards a good result: *We consider this agreement to be an important step forward.* ◊



## COMPLETE LIST OF PREPOSITIONS AND THEIR USES by Seyfi

*Cutting our costs is the only way forward.* ◊ *We are not getting any further forward with the discussion.* ◊ *The project will go forward (= continue) as planned.*

### OPP BACKWARDS

**3** towards the future; ahead in time: *Looking forward, we hope to expand our operations in several of our overseas branches.* ◊ *The next scene takes the story forward five years.* ◊ (old use) *from this day forward*

**4** earlier; sooner: *It was decided to bring the meeting forward two weeks.*

**5** (technical) in or towards the front part of a ship or plane: *The main cabin is situated forward of (= in front of) the mast.*—see also LOOK FORWARD, PUT FORWARD

### back·ward /ˈbækwɜːd; AmE -wɔːrd/ adj.

**1** [only before noun] directed or moving towards the back: *She strode past him without a backward glance.*

**2** moving in a direction that means that no progress is being made

SYN RETROGRADE: *She felt that going back to live in her home town would be a backward step.*

**3** having made less progress than normal; developing slowly: *a backward part of the country, with no paved roads and no electricity* ◊ *a backward child* ◊ (BrE, spoken) *She's not backward in coming forward (= she's not shy).*—compare FORWARD

### under /ˈʌndə(r)/ prep., adv., adj.

#### ■ prep.

**1** in, to or through a position that is below sth: *Have you looked under the bed?* ◊ *She placed the ladder under (= just lower than) the window.* ◊ *The dog squeezed under the gate and ran into the road.*

**2** below the surface of sth; covered by sth: *The boat lay under several feet of water.*

**3** less than; younger than: *an annual income of under £10 000* ◊ *It took us under an hour.* ◊ *Nobody under 18 is allowed to buy alcohol.*

**4** used to say who or what controls, governs or manages sb/sth: *The country is now under martial law.* ◊ *The coinage was reformed under Elizabeth I (= when she was queen).* ◊ *She has a staff of 19 working under her.* ◊ *Under its new conductor, the orchestra has established an international reputation.*

**5** according to an agreement, a law or a system: *Six suspects are being held under the Prevention of Terrorism Act.* ◊ *Under the terms of the lease you had no right to sublet the property.* ◊ *Is the television still under guarantee?*

**6** experiencing a particular process: *The hotel is still under construction.* ◊ *The matter is under investigation.*

**7** affected by sth: *The wall collapsed under the strain.* ◊ *I've been feeling under stress lately.* ◊ *I'm under no illusions about what hard work this will be.* ◊ *You'll be under anaesthetic, so you won't feel a thing.*

**8** using a particular name: *She also writes under the pseudonym of Barbara Vine.*

**9** found in a particular part of a book, list, etc: *If it's not under 'sports', try looking under 'games'.*

#### ■ adv.

**1** below sth: *He pulled up the covers and crawled under.*


**2** below the surface of water: *She took a deep breath and stayed under for more than a minute.* ◊ *The boat was going under fast.*

**3** less; younger: *prices of ten dollars and under* ◊ *children aged 12 and under*

**4** in or into an unconscious state: *He felt himself going under.*

■ adj. [only before noun] lower; underneath: *the under layer* ◊ *the under surface of a leaf*

## COMPLETE LIST OF PREPOSITIONS AND THEIR USES by Seyfi

WHICH WORD? under / below / underneath / beneath	
<p>You use under to say that one thing is directly under another thing: <i>The cat is asleep under the table.</i> ◊ <i>I think your letter is under that book.</i> Underneath can also be used when you want to emphasize that something is being covered or hidden by another thing: <i>Have you looked underneath the sofa as well as behind it?</i> You can also use beneath in this sense, but it is a very formal or literary word.</p> <p>Below is usually preferred to say that one thing is in a lower position than another when they are both in the same building, on the same hill, on the same part of the body, etc: <i>They live in the apartment below us.</i> ◊ <i>Can you see those trees below the summit?</i> ◊ <i>It hurts here — just below the knee.</i></p> <p>Below is used for measurements or position on a scale: <i>The temperature was below zero last night.</i></p> <p>Under is used to mean 'less than': <i>All our goods are under £20.</i> You use under (not below) to talk about movement from one side of something to the other side: <i>We swam under the bridge.</i></p>	

### with /wɪð; wɪð/ prep.

- 1 in the company or presence of sb/sth: *She lives with her parents.* ◊ *I have a client with me right now.* ◊ *a nice steak with a bottle of red wine*
- 2 having or carrying sth: *a girl with (= who has) red hair* ◊ *a jacket with a hood* ◊ *He looked at her with a hurt expression.* ◊ *They're both in bed with flu.* ◊ *a man with a suitcase*
- 3 using sth: *Cut it with a knife.* ◊ *It is treated with acid before being analysed.*
- 4 used to say what fills, covers, etc. sth: *The bag was stuffed with dirty clothes.* ◊ *Sprinkle the dish with salt.*
- 5 in opposition to sb/sth; against sb/sth: *to fight / argue / quarrel with sb* ◊ *to play tennis with sb* ◊ *at war with a neighbouring country* ◊ *I had an argument with my boss.*
- 6 concerning; in the case of: *Be careful with the glasses.* ◊ *Are you pleased with the result?* ◊ *Don't be angry with her.* ◊ *With these students it's pronunciation that's the problem.*
- 7 used when considering one fact in relation to another: *She won't be able to help us with all the family commitments she has.* ◊ *It's much easier compared with last time.*
- 8 including: *The meal with wine came to \$20 each.* ◊ *With all the lesson preparation I have to do I work 12 hours a day.*
- 9 used to show the way in which sb does sth: *He behaved with great dignity.* ◊ *She sleeps with the window open.* ◊ *Don't stand with your hands in your pockets.*
- 10 because of; as a result of: *She blushed with embarrassment.* ◊ *His fingers were numb with cold.*
- 11 because of sth and as it happens: *The shadows lengthened with the approach of sunset.* ◊ *Skill comes with practice.*
- 12 in the same direction as sth: *Marine mammals generally swim with the current.*
- 13 used to show who has possession of or responsibility for sth: *The keys are with reception.*

## COMPLETE LIST OF PREPOSITIONS AND THEIR USES by Seyfi

◊ *Leave it with me.*

**14** employed by; using the services of: *She acted with a touring company for three years.* ◊ *I bank with the HSBC.*

**15** showing separation from sth/sb: *I could never part with this ring.* ◊ *Can we dispense with the formalities?*

**16** in spite of sth: *With all her faults I still love her.*

**17** used in exclamations: *Off to bed with you!* ◊ *Down with school!*

**be with me / you** (informal) to be able to understand what sb is talking about: *Are you with me?* ◊ *I'm afraid I'm not quite with you.*

**be with sb (on sth)** to support sb and agree with what they say: *We're all with you on this one.*

**with it** (informal)

**1** knowing about current fashions and ideas

**SYN** TRENDY: *Don't you have anything more with it to wear?*

**2** understanding what is happening around you

**SYN** ALERT: *You don't seem very with it today.*

**with that** (written) straight after that; then: *He muttered a few words of apology and with that he left.*

**until** /ə'nɪl/ conj., prep. (also informal **till**, **til**, 'til)

These short forms are not usually used at the beginning of a sentence. up to the point in time or the event mentioned: *Let's wait until the rain stops.* ◊ *Until she spoke I hadn't realized she wasn't English.* ◊ *You're not going out until you've finished this.* ◊ *Until now I have always lived alone.* ◊ *They moved here in 1990. Until then they'd always been in the London area.* ◊ *He continued working up until his death.* ◊ *The street is full of traffic from morning till night.* ◊ *You can stay on the bus until London (= until you reach London).*

**with·out** /wɪ'ðaʊt/ prep., adv.

■ prep.

**1** not having, experiencing or showing sth: *They had gone two days without food.* ◊ *He found the place without difficulty.* ◊ *She spoke without much enthusiasm.*

**2** not in the company of sb: *Don't go without me.*

**3** not using or taking sth: *Can you see without your glasses?* ◊ *Don't go out without your coat.*

**4** ~ (sb) **doing sth** not doing the action mentioned: *He left without saying goodbye.* ◊ *The party was organized without her knowing anything about it.* ◊ *You can't make an omelette without breaking eggs.* ◊ **Without wanting to** criticize, I think you could have done better. (= used before you make a critical comment)

■ adv. not having or showing sth: *Do you want a room with a bath or one without?* ◊ *If there's none left we'll have to do without.* ◊ *I'm sure we'll manage without.*

**since** /sɪns/ prep., conj., adv.

■ prep.

**1** (used with the present, perfect or past perfect tense) from a time in the past until a later past time, or until now: *She's been off work since Tuesday.* ◊ *We've lived here since 1994.* ◊ *I haven't eaten since breakfast.* ◊ *He's been working in a bank since leaving school.* ◊ *Since the party she had only spoken to him once.* ◊ *'They've split up.'* **Since when?** ◊ *That was years ago. I've changed jobs since then.*

Use **for**, not **since**, with a period of time: *I've been learning English for five years.* ◊ *I've been learning English since five years.*

## COMPLETE LIST OF PREPOSITIONS AND THEIR USES by Seyfi

**2 ~ when?** used when you are showing that you are angry about sth: *Since when did he ever listen to me?*

■ **conj.**

**1** (used with the present perfect, past perfect or simple present tense in the main clause) from an event in the past until a later past event, or until now: *Cath hasn't phoned since she went to Berlin.* ◊ *It was the first time I'd had visitors since I'd moved to London.* ◊ *It's twenty years since I've seen her.* ◊ *How long is it since we last went to the theatre?* ◊ *She had been worrying ever since the letter arrived.*

**2** because; as: *We thought that, since we were in the area, we'd stop by and see them.*

■ **adv.** (used with the present, perfect or past perfect tense)

**1** from a time in the past until a later past time, or until now: *He left home two weeks ago and we haven't heard from him since.* ◊ *The original building has long since (= long before now) been demolished.*

**2** at a time after a particular time in the past: *We were divorced two years ago and she has since remarried.*

**aboard** /əˈbɔːd; AmE əˈbɔːrd/ **adv., prep.** on or onto a ship, plane, bus or train: *We finally went aboard.* ◊ *He was already aboard the plane.* ◊ *The plane crashed killing all 157 passengers aboard.* ◊ **All aboard!** (= the bus, boat, etc. is leaving soon) ◊ **Welcome aboard!** (= used as a greeting to passengers or to a person joining a new organization, etc.)

**ahead** /əˈhed/ **adv.**

**1** further forward in space or time; in front: *I'll run ahead and warn them.* ◊ *The road ahead was blocked.* ◊ *We've got a lot of hard work ahead.* ◊ *This will create problems in the months ahead.* ◊ *He was looking straight ahead (= straight forward, in front of him).*

**2** earlier; in advance: *The party was planned weeks ahead.*

**3** winning; further advanced: *Our team was ahead by six points.* ◊ *You need to work hard to keep ahead.*

**alongside** /əˈlɒŋsaɪd; AmE əˈlɒŋ- / **prep.**

**1** next to or at the side of sth: *A police car pulled up alongside us.* ◊ *a lifeboat moored alongside the yacht* ◊ *Much of the land alongside the river is below sea level.*

**2** together with or at the same time as sth/sb: *Traditional beliefs still flourish alongside a modern urban lifestyle.*

► **alongside adv.** *Nick caught up with me and rode alongside.*

**amid** /əˈmɪd/ (also **mid**, **amidst** /əˈmɪdst/) **prep.** (formal)

**1** in the middle of or during sth, especially sth that causes excitement or fear: *He finished his speech amid tremendous applause.* ◊ *The firm collapsed amid allegations of fraud.*

**2** surrounded by sth: *The hotel was in a beautiful position amid lemon groves.*

**as** /əz; strong form æz/ **prep., adv., conj.**

■ **prep.**

**1** used to describe sb/sth appearing to be sb/sth else: *They were all dressed as clowns.* ◊ *The bomb was disguised as a package.*


**2** used to describe the fact that sb/sth has a particular job or function: *She works as a courier.* ◊ *Treat me as a friend.* ◊ *I respect him as a doctor.* ◊ *You can use that glass as a vase.* ◊ *The news came as a shock.* ◊ *She had been there often as a child (= when she was a child).*

■ **adv.**

## COMPLETE LIST OF PREPOSITIONS AND THEIR USES by Seyfi

- 1 as ... as ...** used when you are comparing two people or things, or two situations: *You're as tall as your father.* ◊ *He was as white as a sheet.* ◊ *She doesn't play as well as her sister.* ◊ *I haven't known him as long as you (= as you have known him).* ◊ *He doesn't earn as much as me.* ◊ *He doesn't earn as much as I do.* ◊ *It's not as hard as I thought.* ◊ *Run as fast as you can.* ◊ *We'd like it as soon as possible.*
- 2** used to say that sth happens in the same way: *As always, he said little.* ◊ *The 'h' in honest is silent, as in 'hour'.*
- **conj.**
- 1** while sth else is happening: *He sat watching her as she got ready.* ◊ *As she grew older she gained in confidence.*
- 2** in the way in which: *They did as I had asked.* ◊ *Leave the papers as they are.* ◊ *She lost it, just as I said she would.*
- 3** used to state the reason for sth: *As you were out, I left a message.* ◊ *She may need some help as she's new.*
- 4** used to make a comment or to add information about what you have just said: *As you know, Julia is leaving soon.* ◊ *She's very tall, as is her mother.*
- 5** (*written*) used to say that in spite of sth being true, what follows is also true  
**SYN** **THOUGH:** *Happy as they were, there was something missing.* ◊ *Try as he might (= however hard he tried), he couldn't open the door.*
- as against sth** in contrast with sth: *They got 27% of the vote as against 32% at the last election.*
- as and when** used to say that sth may happen at some time in the future, but only when sth else has happened: *We'll decide on the team as and when we qualify.* ◊ *I'll tell you more as and when (= as soon as I can).*
- as for sb/sth** used to start talking about sb/sth  
**SYN** **REGARDING:** *As for Jo, she's doing fine.* ◊ *As for food for the party, that's all being taken care of.*
- as from ... / as of ...** used to show the time or date from which sth starts: *Our fax number is changing as from May 12.*
- as if / as though** in a way that suggests sth: *He behaved as if nothing had happened.* ◊ *It sounds as though you had a good time.* ◊ *It's my birthday. As if you didn't know!* ◊ *Don't say anything! 'As if I would!' (= surely you do not expect me to)*
- as it is** considering the present situation; as things are: *We were hoping to finish it by next week—as it is, it may be the week after.* ◊ *I can't help—I've got too much to do as it is (= already).*
- as it were** used when a speaker is giving his or her own impression of a situation or expressing sth in a particular way: *Teachers must put the brakes on, as it were, when they notice students looking puzzled.*
- as to sth** | **as regards sth** used when you are referring to sth: *As to tax, that will be deducted from your salary.*
- as you do** used as a comment on sth that you have just said: *He smiled and I smiled back. As you do.*—more at **WELL, YET**

## COMPLETE LIST OF PREPOSITIONS AND THEIR USES by Seyfi

WHICH WORD? as / like	
You can use both as and like to say that things are similar.	
Like is a preposition and is used before nouns and pronouns: <i>He has blue eyes like me.</i>	
As is a conjunction and an adverb and is used before a clause, another adverb or a clause beginning with a preposition: <i>She enjoys all kinds of music, as I do.</i> ◊ <i>Repeat these five steps, as in the last exercise.</i>	
In informal English like is frequently used as a conjunction or an adverb instead of as: <i>Nobody understands him like I do.</i> ◊ <i>I don't want to upset him again like before.</i> It is also used instead of as if: <i>It looks like we're going to be late.</i> These uses of like are common but are not considered correct in formal written English.	
You will find more help on the use of as and like in the entries for particular verbs, such as act, behave, etc.	

**aside** /ə'saɪd/ *adv., noun*

■ *adv.*

1 to one side; out of the way: *She pulled the curtain aside.* ◊ **Stand aside** and let these people pass. ◊ **He took me aside** (= away from a group of people) to give me some advice. ◊ (figurative) **Leaving aside** (= not considering at this stage) the cost of the scheme, let us examine its benefits. ◊ **All our protests were brushed aside** (= ignored).

2 to be used later: *We set aside some money for repairs.*

3 used after nouns to say that except for one thing, sth is true: *Money worries aside, things are going well.*

■ *noun*

1 (in the theatre) something which a character in a play says to the audience, but which the other characters on stage are not intended to hear: *Shakespeare's use of asides and soliloquies*

2 a remark, often made in a low voice, which is not intended to be heard by everyone present: *He made several mocking asides about the inadequacy of women.*

3 a remark that is not directly connected with the main subject that is being discussed: *I mention it only as an aside ...*

**astride** /ə'straɪd/ *prep., adv.*

■ *prep.* with one leg on each side of sth: *to sit astride a horse / bike / chair* ◊ (figurative) *a town astride the river*

■ *adv.*

1 with legs or feet wide apart

2 with one leg on each side

**away** /ə'weɪ/ *adv.*

1 ~ (from sb/sth) to or at a distance from sb/sth in space or time: *The beach is a mile away.* ◊ *The station is a few minutes' walk away.* ◊ *Christmas is still months away.*

## COMPLETE LIST OF PREPOSITIONS AND THEIR USES by Seyfi

**2** to a different place or in a different direction: *Go away!* ◊ *Put your toys away.* ◊ *The bright light made her look away.*

**3** ~ (from sb/sth) not present

**SYN** **ABSENT:** *She was away from work for a week.* ◊ *There were ten children away yesterday.* ◊ *Sorry, he's away.*

**4** used after verbs to say that sth is done continuously or with a lot of energy: *She was still writing away furiously when the bell went.* ◊ *They were soon chatting away like old friends.*

**5** until disappearing completely: *The water boiled away.* ◊ *The music faded away.* ◊ *They danced the night away (= all night).*

**6** (sport) at the opponent's ground or **STADIUM:** *Chelsea are playing away this Saturday.* ◊ *an away match / game—compare HOME*

**away with** ... (literary) used to say that you would like to be rid of sb/sth: *Away with all these rules and regulations!*—more at **COBWEBS**, **FAR adv.**, **DANCE v.**, **RIGHT adv.**, **STRAIGHT adv.**

**be·yond** /bɪˈjɒnd; AmE bɪˈjɔːnd/ prep., adv.

■ prep.

**1** on or to the further side of sth: *The road continues beyond the village up into the hills.*

**2** later than a particular time: *It won't go on beyond midnight.* ◊ *I know what I'll be doing for the next three weeks but I haven't thought beyond that.*

**3** more than sth: *Our success was far beyond what we thought possible.* ◊ *She's got nothing beyond her state pension.*

**4** used to say that sth is not possible: *The bicycle was beyond repair (= is too badly damaged to repair).* ◊ *The situation is beyond our control.*

**5** too far or too advanced for sb/sth: *The handle was just beyond my reach.* ◊ *The exercise was beyond the abilities of most of the class.*

**be beyond sb** (informal) to be impossible for sb to imagine, understand or do: *It's beyond me why she wants to marry Jeff.*

■ adv. on the other side; further on: *Snowdon and the mountains beyond were covered in snow.* ◊ *The immediate future is clear, but it's hard to tell what lies beyond.* ◊ *the year 2000 and beyond*

**circa** /sɜːkə; AmE sɜːrkə/ prep. (from Latin) (abbr. c) (used with dates) about: *born circa 150 BC*

**next** /nekst/ adj., adv., noun

■ adj. [only before noun]

**1** (usually with *the*) coming straight after sb/sth in time, order or space: *The next train to Baltimore is at ten.* ◊ *The next six months will be the hardest.* ◊ *the next chapter* ◊ *Who's next?* ◊ *the woman in the next room* ◊ *I fainted and the next thing I knew I was in the hospital.* ◊ (informal) *Round here, you leave school at sixteen and next thing you know, you're married with three kids.*

**2** (used without *the*) ~ **Monday, week, summer, year, etc.** the Monday, week, etc. immediately following: *Next Thursday is 12 April.* ◊ *Next time I'll bring a book.*

**the next man** the average person: *I can enjoy a joke as well as the next man, but this is going too far.*—more at **DAY**, **LUCK n.**

■ adv.


**1** after sth else; then; afterwards: *What happened next?* ◊ *Next, I heard the sound of voices.*

**2** ~ **best, biggest, most important, etc.** ... (after / to sb/sth) following in the order mentioned: *Jo was the next oldest after Martin.* ◊ *The next best thing to flying is gliding.*

## COMPLETE LIST OF PREPOSITIONS AND THEIR USES by Seyfi

**3** used in questions to express surprise or confusion: *You're going bungee jumping? Whatever next?*

■ **noun** (usually the next) [sing.] a person or thing that is next: *One moment he wasn't there, the next he was.* ◊ *the week after next*

WHICH WORD? next / nearest	
(The) <b>next</b> means 'after this/that one' in time or in a series of events, places or people: <i>When is your next appointment?</i> ◊ <i>Turn left at the next traffic lights.</i> ◊ <i>Who's next?</i> (The) <b>nearest</b> means 'closest' in space: <i>Where's the nearest supermarket?</i>	
Notice the difference between the prepositions <b>nearest to</b> and <b>next to</b> : <i>Janet's sitting nearest to the window</i> (= of all the people in the room). <i>Sarah's sitting next to the window</i> (= right beside it). In informal <i>BrE</i> <b>nearest</b> can be used instead of <b>nearest to</b> : <i>Who's sitting nearest the door?</i>	

**op·pos·ite** /'ɒpəzɪt; -sɪt; AmE 'ɑːpəzət/ *adj., adv., noun, prep.*

■ **adj.**

**1** [only before noun] on the other side of a particular area from sb/sth and usually facing them: *Answers are given on the opposite page.* ◊ *We live further down on the opposite side of the road.* ◊ *It's not easy having a relationship when you live at opposite ends of the country.*

**2** (used after the noun) facing the speaker or sb/sth that has been mentioned: *I could see smoke coming from the windows of the house directly opposite.* ◊ *He sat down in the chair opposite.*

**3** [usually before noun] as different as possible from sth: *I watched them leave and then drove off in the opposite direction.* ◊ *She tried calming him down but it seemed to be having the opposite effect.* ◊ *students at opposite ends of the ability range*

**op·pos·ite adv.:** *There's a newly married couple living opposite (= on the other side of the road).* ◊ *See opposite (= on the opposite page) for further details.*

**your opposite number** a person who does the same job as you in another organization: *The Foreign Secretary is currently having talks with his opposite number in the White House.*

**the opposite sex** the other sex: *He found it difficult to talk to members of the opposite sex.*

■ **noun** [often sing.] a person or thing that is as different as possible from sb/sth else: *Hot and cold are opposites.* ◊ *What is the opposite of heavy?* ◊ *I thought she would be small and blonde but she's the complete opposite.* ◊ *Exactly the opposite is true.* ◊ *'Is it better now?' 'Quite the opposite, I'm afraid.'*

**opposites attract** used to say that people who are very different are often attracted to each other

■ **prep.**

**1** on the other side of a particular area from sb/sth, and usually facing them: *I sat opposite him during the meal (= on the other side of the table).* ◊ *The bank is opposite the supermarket (= on the other side of the road).* ◊ *Write your address opposite (= next to) your name.*—picture at

FRONT *n.*

**2** acting in a film/movie or play as the partner of sb: *She starred opposite Tom Hanks.*



## COMPLETE LIST OF PREPOSITIONS AND THEIR USES by Seyfi

**round** /raʊnd/ *adj., adv., prep., noun, verb*

*adj.* (**round·er, round·est**)

**1** shaped like a circle or a ball: *a round table / plate* ◊ *These glasses suit people with round faces.* ◊ *The fruit are small and round.* ◊ *Rugby isn't played with a round ball.* ◊ *the discovery that the world is round* ◊ *The child was watching it all with big round eyes (= showing interest).* ◊ *a T-shirt with a round neck—see also ROUND-EYED, ROUND-TABLE*

**2** having a curved shape: *the round green hills of Donegal* ◊ *round brackets (= in punctuation)* ◊ *She had a small mouth and round pink cheeks.*

**3** [only before noun] a **round** figure or amount is one that is given as a whole number, usually one ending in 0 or 5: *Make it a round figure—say forty dollars.* ◊ *Two thousand is a nice round number—put that down.* ◊ *Well, in round figures (= not giving the exact figures) we've spent twenty thousand so far.*

**round·ness** *noun* [U] (*written*): *His face had lost its boyish roundness.*

■ *adv.* (*especially BrE*) (*AmE usually around*) For the special uses of **round** in phrasal verbs, look at the verb entries. For example, the meaning of **come round to sth** is given in the phrasal verb section of the entry for **come**.

**1** moving in a circle: *Everybody joins hands and dances round.* ◊ *How do you make the wheels go round?* ◊ *The children were spinning round and round.* ◊ (*figurative*) *The thought kept going round and round in her head.*

**2** measuring or marking the edge or outside of sth: *a young tree measuring only 18 inches round* ◊ *They've built a high fence all round to keep intruders out.*

**3** on all sides of sb/sth: *A large crowd had gathered round to watch.*

**4** at various places in an area: *People stood round waiting for something to happen.*

**5** in a circle or curve to face another way or the opposite way: *He turned the car round and drove back again.* ◊ *She looked round at the sound of his voice.*

**6** to the other side of sth: *We walked round to the back of the house.* ◊ *The road's blocked—you'll have to drive the long way round.*

**7** from one place, person, etc. to another: *They've moved all the furniture round.* ◊ *He went round interviewing people about local traditions.* ◊ *Pass the biscuits round.* ◊ *Have we enough cups to go round?*

**8** (*informal*) to or at a particular place, especially where sb lives: *I'll be round in an hour.* ◊ *We've invited the Frasers round this evening.* □ note at **AROUND**

**round about**

**1** in the area near a place: *in Oxford and the villages round about*

**2** approximately: *We're leaving round about ten.* ◊ *A new roof will cost round about £3 000.—more at TIME*

■ *prep.* (*especially BrE*) (*AmE usually around*)

**1** in a circle: *the first woman to sail round the world* ◊ *The earth moves round the sun.*

**2** on, to or from the other side of sth: *Our house is round the next bend.* ◊ *There she is, coming round the corner.* ◊ *There must be a way round the problem.*

**3** on all sides of sb/sth; surrounding sb/sth: *She put her arms round him.* ◊ *He had a scarf round his neck.* ◊ *They were all sitting round the table.*

**4** in or to many parts of sth: *She looked all round the room.*

**5** to fit in with particular people, ideas, etc: *He has to organize his life round the kids.* □ note at **AROUND**

**round here** near where you are now or where you live: *There are no decent schools round here.*

■ *noun*

## COMPLETE LIST OF PREPOSITIONS AND THEIR USES by Seyfi

### do / go the rounds (of sth)

1 (BrE) (AmE **make the rounds**) if news or a joke **does the rounds**, it is passed on quickly from one person to another

2 (BrE) (also **make the rounds** AmE, BrE) to go around from place to place, especially when looking for work or support for a political **CAMPAIGN**, etc: *He's doing the rounds of insurance firms.* ◊ *The Vice-President made the rounds of television talk shows.*

### in the round

1 (of a work of art) made so that it can be seen from all sides: *an opportunity to see Canova's work in the round*

2 (of a theatre or play) with the people watching all around a central stage

### ■ verb

1 [vn] to go around a corner of a building, a bend in the road, etc: *The boat rounded the tip of the island.* ◊ *We rounded the bend at high speed.*

2 to make sth into a round shape; to form into a round shape: [vn] *She rounded her lips and whistled.* ◊ [v] *His eyes rounded with horror.*

3 [vn] ~ sth (up / down) (to sth) to increase or decrease a number to the next highest or lowest whole number

### round sth ↔ off (with sth)

1 (AmE also **round sth ↔ out**) to finish an activity or complete sth in a good or suitable way: *She rounded off the tour with a concert at Carnegie Hall.*

2 to take the sharp or rough edges off sth: *You can round off the corners with sandpaper.*

**round on sb** to suddenly speak angrily to sb and criticize or attack them: *He rounded on journalists, calling them 'a pack of vultures'.*

### round sb/sth ↔ up

1 to find and gather together people, animals or things: *I rounded up a few friends for a party.* ◊ *The cattle are rounded up in the evenings.*

2 if police or soldiers **round up** a group of people, they find them and arrest or capture them: *A number of suspects were rounded up and questioned.*—related noun **ROUND-UP**

### through·out /ˈθruːtʌt/ prep.

1 in or into every part of sth: *They export their products to markets throughout the world.*

2 during the whole period of time of sth: *The museum is open daily throughout the year.*

▶ **through·out** adv.: *The house was painted white throughout.* ◊ *The ceremony lasted two hours and we had to stand throughout.*

### unto /ˈʌntuː; before vowelsˈʌntu/ prep. (old use)

1 to or towards sb/sth: *The angel appeared unto him in a dream.*

2 until a particular time or event: *The knights swore loyalty unto death.*

### via /ˈviːə; ˈviːə/ prep.

1 through a place: *We flew home via Dubai.*

2 by means of a particular person, system, etc: *I heard about the sale via Jane.* ◊ *The news programme came to us via satellite.*

### un·like /ˈʌnlaɪk/ prep., adj.

#### ■ prep.

1 different from a particular person or thing: *Music is quite unlike any other art form.* ◊ (written) *The sound was **not unlike** that of birds singing.*

2 used to contrast sb/sth with another person or thing: *Unlike most systems, this one is very*

## COMPLETE LIST OF PREPOSITIONS AND THEIR USES by Seyfi

easy to install.

**3** not typical of sb/sth: *It's very unlike him to be so late.*

**LIKE**

■ **adj.** [not before noun] (*written*) (of two people or things) different from each other: *They are both teachers. Otherwise they are quite unlike.*—compare **ALIKE**, **LIKE**

**per** /pɜː(r); strong form pɜː(r)/ *prep.* used to express the cost or amount of sth for each person, number used, distance travelled, etc: *Rooms cost £50 per person, per night.* ◊ *60 miles per hour* ◊ *This country has a higher crime rate per 100 000 of the population than most other European countries.*

**as per sth** following sth that has been decided: *The work was carried out as per instructions.*

**as per normal / usual** (*spoken*) in the way that is normal or usual; as often happens: *Everyone blamed me as per usual.*

**not·with·stand·ing** /nɒtˈwɪðˈstændɪŋ; -wɪð-; AmE nɑːt-/ *prep., adv.*

*prep.* (*formal*) (also used following the noun it refers to) without being affected by sth; in spite of sth: *Notwithstanding some major financial problems, the school has had a successful year.* ◊ *The bad weather notwithstanding, the event was a great success.*

*adv.* (*formal*) in spite of this

**SYN** **HOWEVER**, **NEVERTHELESS**: *Notwithstanding, the problem is a significant one.*

**till** /tɪl/ *conj., prep., noun, verb*

■ **conj., prep.** = **UNTIL**: *We're open till 6 o'clock.* ◊ *Can't you wait till we get home?* ◊ *Just wait till you see it. It's great.*

■ **noun**

**1** (*BrE*) = **CASH REGISTER**

**2** (*BrE, informal*) the place where you pay for goods in a large shop/store: *Please pay at the till.* ◊ *a long queue at the till*

**3** (*especially AmE*) the drawer where the money is put in a **CASH REGISTER**

see **FINGER** *n.*

■ **verb** [**vn**] (*old use*) to prepare and use land for growing crops