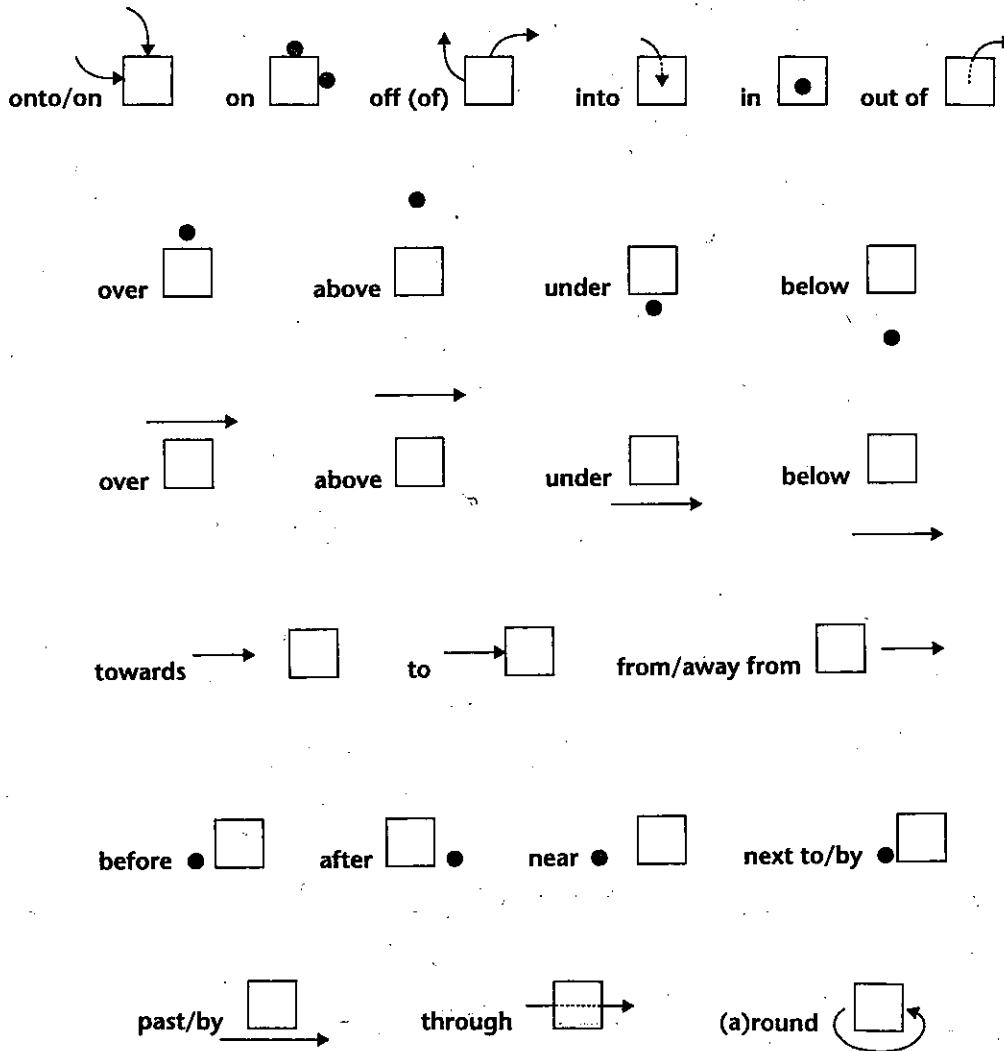


Prepositions

Prepositions are words that show relationships and link nouns, pronouns, and phrases to other words in a sentence. They indicate place, direction, and time.

Literal (Physical) Meanings

*The arrows represent movement; the dots represent fixed objects.



Examples:

Onto/on: He placed the plates onto/on the table.

Off (of)*: During the hurricane, some of the tiles fell off (of) the roof.

Into/in: As the guests arrived, they came into/in the dining room.

Out of: The waitress came out of the kitchen carrying a basket of garlic bread sticks.

Over: Please put a cover over the boiling pot.

Above: The vulture hovered above the decaying corpse for a few minutes before landing.

Under: Our cat likes to sleep under the dining room table.

Below: Divers were sent below to view the wreck.

Toward(s): The baseball player continued to run towards third base.

To: I'm sending this letter to the governor's office.

From: I am from California, but my family is originally from Maine.

Away from: The little girl ran away from the dangerous stranger.

Before: The post office is in the brick building before the thrift store.

After: Looking for the dry cleaners? It's the building after the gas station.

Near/by: Don't leave the wash cloth near/by the stove, Fred. It's very hot.

Next to/by: The stapler is on my desk next to/by the electric pencil sharpener.

Past/by: We drove past/by his house yesterday afternoon, but we couldn't stop and say hello.

Through: Last fall, we took a road trip through the Florida Everglades.

(A)round: Before the bridge was built, my commute was a lot longer because I had to drive around the lake.

Practice: Pick the answer that best fits in the blank.

1. That blouse looks just beautiful! ____ you! **(over/on)**
2. The ball rolled ____ the coffee table. **(off of/from)**
3. Please don't forget to pour the cereal ____ the plastic container. **(into/ through)**
4. The small rabbit cautiously crept ____ its den to search for food. **(after/out of)**
5. Don't forget to pull the cover ____ the swimming pool. **(over/on)**
6. A honey bee hovered ____ a beautiful pink carnation. **(around/above)**
7. Susie still believes that there are monsters ____ her bed. **(under/nearby)**
8. There is a strange noise coming ____ the house. **(below/on)**
9. If you are driving ____ the Amway Center, you will pass through downtown Orlando. **(towards/after)**
10. She gave some candy ____ to her coworkers to show her appreciation for their work. **(around/to)**
11. The mailman ran frantically ____ the angry dog. **(towards/away from)**
12. ____ you begin the test, remember to put your name at the top of the page. **(before/through)**
13. Do you want to go to dinner ____ the game? **(around/after)**
14. There is a really nice restaurant ____ the theater. **(near/into)**
15. I think I put the letter opener next ____ the box envelopes. **(out of/ to/by)**
16. ____ the big oak tree down the road there is a big wooden play round. **(into/past/by)**
17. John always cut ____ Mrs. Rain's yard to get to the tool shed. **(before/through)**
18. The security guard made sure to circle ____ the building to check the locks. **(around/to)**

Answers:

- | | |
|------------|---------------|
| 1. on | 10. to |
| 2. off of | 11. away from |
| 3. into | 12. Before |
| 4. out of | 13. after |
| 5. over | 14. near |
| 6. above | 15. to/by |
| 7. under | 16. past/by |
| 8. below | 17. through |
| 9. towards | 18. around |