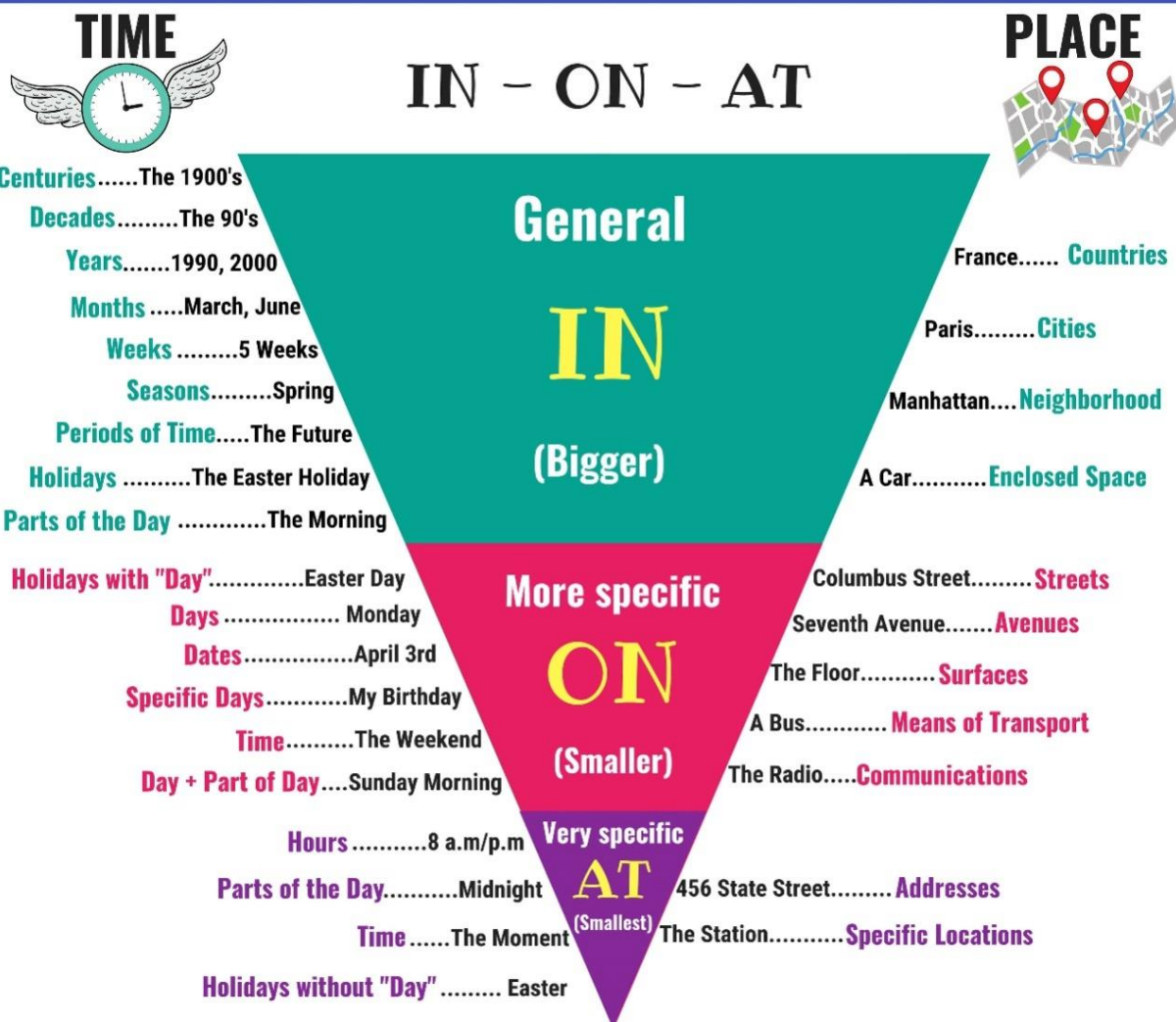


PREPOSITIONS OF TIME AND PLACE



With

Used to indicate being to get her or being involved:

- I ordered a sandwich with a drink.
- He was with his friend when he saw me.
- She has been working with her sister at the nail shop.
- The manager will be with you shortly.

Used to indicate "having":

- I met a guy with green eyes.
- Were you the one talking with na accent?
- People with a lot of money are not always happy.

Used to indicate "using":

- I wrote a letter with the pen you gave me.
- This is the soup that I made with rice and barley.
- He cut my hair with his gold scissors.

Used to indicate feeling:

- I am emailing you with my sincere apology.
- He came to the front stage with confidence.

Used to indicate agreement or understanding:

- Are you with me?
- Yes, I am completely with you.
- She agrees with me.

Over

Used to indicate movement from one place to another:

Come over to my house for dinner sometime.

- Could you roll over?
- They sent over a gift for his promotion.

Used to indicate movement downward:

The big tree fell over on the road.

- Can you bend over and get the dish for me?
- He pushed it over the edge.

Used to indicate more than an expected number or amount:

This amount is over our prediction.

- Kids twelve and over can watch this movie.
- The phone rang for over a minute.

Used to indicate a period of time:

I worked there over a year.

- She did not sleep there over this past month.

By

Used to indicate proximity:

Can I sit by you?

- He was standing by me.
- The post office is by the bank.

Used to indicate the person that does something in a passive voice sentence:

The microwave was fixed by the mechanic.

- The flowers were delivered by a postman.
- The branch office was closed by the head office.

Used to indicate an action with a particular purpose:

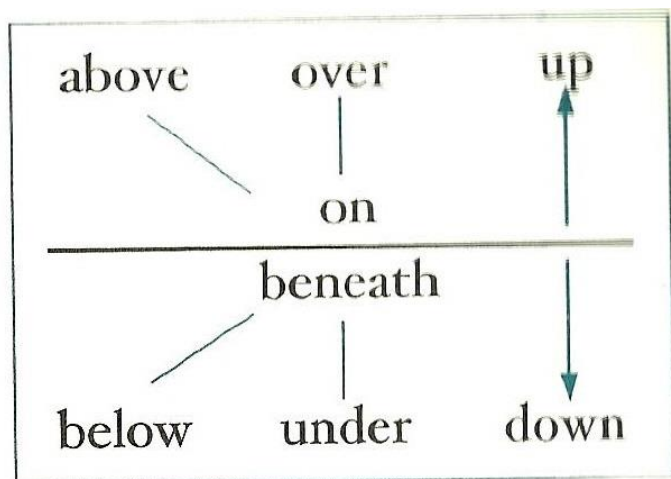
You can pass the exam by preparing for it.

- I expressed my feeling toward her by writing a letter.
- She finally broke the record by pure effort.

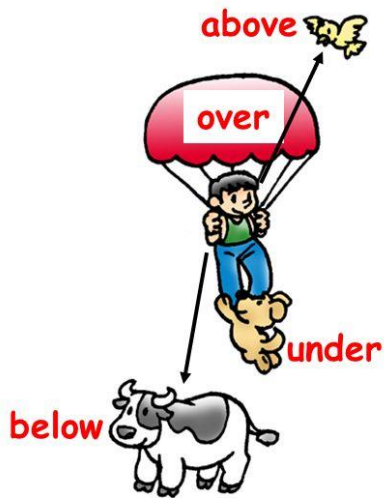
Used to indicate a mean or method:

Please send this package to Russia by airmail.

- I came here by subway.



Position / place



Above = in a higher position

Over = touching or covering something

Under = directly below something

Below = in a lower position



AGAINST



Of

Used for belonging to, relating to, or connected with:

- The secret of this game is that you can't ever win.
- The highlight of the show is at the end.
- The first page of the book describes the author's profile.
- Don't touch it. That's the bag of my friend's sister.
- I always dreamed of being rich and famous.

Used to indicate reference:

- I got married in the summer of 2000.
- This is a picture of my family.
- I got a discount of 10 percent on the purchase.

Used to indicate an amount or number:

- I drank three cups of milk.
- A large number of people gathered to protest.
- I had only four hours of sleep during the last two days.
- He got a perfect score of 5 on his writing assignment.

To

Used to indicate the place, person, or thing that someone or something moves toward, or the direction of something:

- I am heading to the entrance of the building.
- The package was mailed to Mr. Kim yesterday.
- All of us went to the movie theater.
- Please send it back to me.

Used to indicate a limit or an ending point:

- The snow was piled up to the roof.
- The stock prices rose up to 100 dollars.

Used to indicate relationship:

- This letter is very important to your admission.
- My answer to your question is in this envelop.
- Do not respond to every little thing in your life.

Used to indicate a time or a period:

- I work nine to six, Monday to Friday.
- It is now 10 to five. (In other words, it is 4:50.)

For

Used to indicate the use of something:

- This place is for exhibitions and shows.
- I baked a cake for your birthday.
- I put a note on the door for privacy.
- She has been studying hard for the final exam.

Used to mean because of:

- I am so happy for you.
- We feel deeply sorry for your loss.
- For this reason, I've decided to quit this job.

Used to indicate time or duration:

- He's been famous for many decades.
- I attended the university for one year only.
- This is all I have for today.

From

From is generally used to express that something originates from something else, that something comes from somewhere, or some person.

- *Jack comes from Portland.*
- *This formula derives from the work of Peter Schimmel.*
- *This pearl comes from the South Pacific.*

- *I played tennis from two to four in the afternoon yesterday.*
- *We are meeting in Chicago from Monday until Thursday.*

Understanding the difference between *of* and *from* can be tricky at first for ESL students, but like all commonly-confused words, the difference between them becomes more clear the more they are used.

UP

They're traveling up the escalator.

You need to walk up the stairs to get to the temple.

The arrow on this sign points up.

She puts the pictures up on the wall in her office.

(The word "up" is often used with verb phrases.)

After ten minutes of work, their tent is up.

("Up" is used as an adjective in this sentence.)

this hot-air balloon is up in the air.

It's dangerous to get up close to a lion.

(get up close: get very close; to move near something)

AMONG

Among means 'in the middle or included in a larger group of people or things'. *Among* is commonly followed by a plural noun phrase:

*I'm not worried about her. She's living **among** friends.*

*I think I've got that album **among** my boxes of CDs upstairs.*

Until

As a preposition of time, "until" describes a continuous action that stops at a specific time.

"until" describes the duration of an action before a specific time.

I'm staying in New York until Friday.

I'm really tired. Last night I watched a film until midnight.

Mark lived in Manchester until 2010.

"TILL"

We can use "till" instead of "until".

"till" is more informal.

I am going to study till 9 o'clock.

I am going to study until 9 o'clock.

FROM -UNTIL

from + specific time = start time

until + specific time = end time

The shop will be closed from 7pm until 8am tomorrow.

The shop will be closed from 7pm through 8am tomorrow. (USA English)

When NOT to use “until”

We do **NOT** use “until” to describe numbers or a quantity:

My car can take **until** 3 passengers. ❌

Instead, we use “up to”:

My car can take **up to** 3 passengers. ✅

You may take the accounting exam **until** 3 times. ❌

You may take the accounting exam **up to** 3 times. ✅

The cinema can hold **until** 100 people. ❌

The cinema can hold **up to** 100 people. ✅

OFF

Off can be used in the following ways:

as an **adverb**: *He waved and drove off. She took her coat off and hung it up. My house is a long way off.*

as a **preposition**: *She got off the bus at the next stop. Keep off the grass.* In spoken American English **off of** is often used instead of the preposition **off**, but many speakers of British English think that this is not correct.

as an **adjective**: *This meat is definitely off – I can't eat it. I'm having an off day.*