

# Unit 11

## Prepositions

### Objectives

After the completion of this unit, you would be able to---

- learn prepositions.
- know different types of prepositions.
- use prepositions correctly.

### Overview:

**Lesson 1:** *Prepositions*

**Lesson 2:** *Usages of Common Prepositions*

### Answer Key

## Lesson 01: Prepositions



A preposition is a word placed before a Noun (sometimes also in front of gerund verbs) or a Pronoun to show its relation to some other words in the sentence. Look at the following sentences:

The girl sat beside her mother.

I walked with my brother.

They were in the classroom.

Kamal lives in Dhaka.

She is good at English.

The underlined words in the sentences above are prepositions.

### Exercises:

#### Choose the correct prepositions to fill the gaps:

1. I know nothing \_\_\_\_\_ the matter. (about/for/of)
2. The picture was hanging \_\_\_\_\_ my head. (on/above/in)
3. They were walking \_\_\_\_\_ the field. (across/in/on)
4. I shall go there \_\_\_\_\_ 5 o'clock. (after/of/over)
5. The letter has come \_\_\_\_\_ Dhaka.(from/to/for)
6. There are a lot of differences \_\_\_\_\_ them. (among/between/in)
7. The books are \_\_\_\_\_ the table. (on/over/above)
8. He is suffering \_\_\_\_\_ illness. (in/for/from)
9. They live \_\_\_\_\_ New York. (at/in/on)
10. Fish cannot live \_\_\_\_\_ food. (in/with/without)
11. I saw her \_\_\_\_\_ her friends. (with/of/in)
12. He is good \_\_\_\_\_ mathematics. (in/at/about)
13. I am weak \_\_\_\_\_ science. (at/in/about)
14. I am reading an interesting book \_\_\_\_\_ animals. (on/about/over)
15. Time and tide wait \_\_\_\_\_ none. (from/for/on)

### Answers:

1. about 2. above 3. across 4. after 5. from 6. among 7. on 8. From 9. in  
10. without 11. with 12. at 13. in 14. about 15. for

## Lesson 02 : Usages of Common Prepositions

### At



- a. They left home **at** dawn.
- b. I reached home **at** night.
- c. He is now **at** home.
- d. They came **at** noon. Similarly- (at school, at the door, at a distance, at present, at war etc.)
- e. He left school **at** 12. (when 12 years old)
- f. Let's meet **at** the library.
- g. I found this **at** the store.
- h. She is **at** the bank.
- i. I saw them **at** the movies.
- j. They were **at** school.



### Exercise:

#### Fill in the gaps with appropriate prepositions.

- a. He was .....work.
- b. The examination is.....hand (near)
- c. There is a beggar standing .....the door.
- d. He can see better.....a distance.
- e. I could not know him.....first sight.
- f. The train ran .....full speed.
- g. He could not finish the work .....a setting.
- h. He sold the thing .....a loss.
- i. He bought the goods .....taka 200.
- j. Pure milk is rare .....present.
- k. There are many dogs ..... the park.
- l. I'll meet you..... noon.
- m. Let's eat dinner .....seven o'clock.
- n. Take a look ..... all of these items.
- o. I glanced ..... the clock.

### About

- a. This book is **about** birds.
- b. We walked **about** the town.
- c. I know nothing **about** the film.
- d. What **about** Hasan?

- e. She's **about** 12 years old.
- f. Are you **about** ready?
- g. The cake was **about** gone.
- h. I'm **about** halfway there.



**Exercise:**

**Fill in the gaps with appropriate prepositions.**

- a. He's been on the phone for ..... ten minutes.
- b. He weighs ..... 240 pounds.
- c. Those mountains are ..... five miles away.
- d. It took ..... 20 minutes to get our pizza delivered.
- e. She's reading a very interesting book ..... European history.
- f. He's just ..... to cry.
- g. When he woke up, there were ..... ten people waiting for his garage sale to begin.
- h. He is ..... to get angry.

**After**

- a. I walk home **after** work.
- b. I go to bed **after** 11pm.
- c. My name comes **after** yours in the list.
- d. Close the door **after** him.
- e. **After** all his hard work he could not pass.
- f. Police are **after** him.
- g. He was named **after** his grandfather.



**Exercise:**

**Fill in the gaps with appropriate prepositions.**

- a. It gets dark very quickly.....sunset.
- b. .... 5:00 pm a lot of people return home from work.
- c. Cemeteries get a lot of new visitors ..... a war.
- d. Human beings started to learn how to make many new tools ..... prehistoric times.
- e. They decided to move on to a new house ..... their marriage.
- f. Mangoes ripe ..... the middle of June.
- g. She got something to eat ..... a walk in the park.

**Above**

- a. We were flying **above** the clouds.
- b. The sun rose **above** the horizon.

- c. The temperature has been **above** the average recently.
- d. It weighs **above** ten tons.
- e. His conduct is always **above** suspicion.



### Exercise:

#### Fill in the gaps with appropriate prepositions.

- a. A soldier should value honour ..... life.
- b. The sky is ..... the earth.
- c. Do not live..... your means.
- d. The applicants must be ..... 21 years of age.
- e. He is now..... fifty.
- f. He is..... meanness and deceit.
- g. There is nothing in this shop ..... Taka 200/-.

#### Against

- a. Public opinion was **against** this proposal.
- b. We were going **against** the current.
- c. They voted **against** him.
- d. He hit his head **against** the wall.
- e. It is a vaccine **against** bacteria.



### Exercise:

#### Fill in the gaps with appropriate prepositions.

- a. Place the ladder ..... the wall.
- b. He was leaning ..... a pillar.
- c. The rain was beating ..... the wall.
- d. She was married ..... her will.
- e. Take precaution ..... fire.

#### Before

- a. She reached there **before** 10 am.
- b. I enter into the examination hall 30 minutes **before** the start.
- c. His father died **before** his birth.
- d. My name appears **before** yours in the list.
- e. The proposal was put **before** the planning committee.
- f. He stood **before** the gate.



**Exercise:**

**Fill in the gaps with appropriate prepositions.**

- a. It feels good to wake up ..... sunrise.
- b. It's about twenty-five minutes ..... ten.
- c. Moses went ..... King Pharaoh and asked him to let his people go.
- d. These musicians enjoy performing ..... an audience.
- e. She stretches her legs ..... a race.
- f. The mountain that lies ..... us will take a week to climb.
- g. We have a long journey ..... us.
- h. She has many new challenges ..... her.

**Behind**

- a. The dog is **behind** the fence.
- b. The child was hiding **behind** the door.
- c. The performers were waiting **behind** the curtain.
- d. My keys fell **behind** the couch.
- e. He was standing **behind** me.
- f. She sits **behind** me in class."



**Exercise:**

**Fill in the gaps with appropriate prepositions.**

- a. What is the reason ..... your absence?
- b. He hides himself ..... the wall.
- c. Kamal always sits ..... in the class.
- d. Why are you standing ..... the door?
- e. What is the secret ..... your success?

**Between**

- a. Tara was sitting **between** Ram and Ati.
- b. **Between** you and me, I think she's crazy.
- c. I can meet you **between** 1pm and 2pm.
- d. There is a door **between** the two rooms.
- e. I got stuck **between** two rocks.



**Exercise:**

**Fill in the gaps with appropriate prepositions.**

- a. The ball rolled ..... the couch and the wall.
- b. The neighbours built a fence ..... the two houses.
- c. They are arriving sometime ..... lunch and dinner.
- d. The accident happened ..... noon and one o'clock.

- e. She stood ..... her parents.
- f. I had to choose ..... the two shirts.
- g. The voters had to decide ..... the two candidates.

### By

- a. You can send the letter **by** post.
- b. We went there **by** train.
- c. He came in **by** the back door.
- d. The girl sat **by** me.
- e. He is senior to me **by** 5 years.
- f. I took her **by** the arm.



### Exercise:

#### Fill in the gaps with appropriate prepositions.

- a. They work .....day or ..... night.
- b. He sent a letter ..... post or ..... hand.
- c. We informed him .....letter or ..... telephone.
- d. Eggs are sold ..... dozen.
- e. He sat ..... me
- f. We paid ..... cheque.
- g. He knows me ..... name.
- h. He is older than you ..... 5 years.
- i. It is four P. M. .... my watch.
- j. We defeated them ..... two goals to one.
- k. Can you finish the work ..... tomorrow?
- l. The man died ..... accident.
- m. The teacher pulled him ..... the ear.
- n. I did it..... mistake.

### During

- a. Please call back **during** business hours.
- b. We lost power **during** the rainstorm.
- c. My puppy sleeps a lot **during** the day.
- d. I got an emergency phone call **during** my meeting.



### Exercise:

#### Fill in the gaps with appropriate prepositions.

- a. Let's go to Hawaii ..... the winter months.
- b. We got sick ..... our trip.
- c. My mom works part-time ..... school hours.
- d. There was a fire alarm ..... the test.

## Lesson 03 : Usages of Common Prepositions

### For



- a. I have bought a shirt **for** you.
- b. We need furniture **for** our office.
- c. It is a knife **for** cutting bread.
- d. It has been raining **for** two hours.
- e. He works **for** the party.
- f. I voted **for** the proposal.



### Exercise:

#### Fill in the gaps with appropriate prepositions.

- a. What is Dhaka famous ..... ?
- b. He did the job ..... nothing.
- c. We heard a cry ..... help.
- d. He was sent to prison ..... stealing.
- e. She is getting ready ..... school.
- f. The house is ..... sale.
- g. We are leaving ..... Dhaka.
- h. He was silent ..... shame.
- i. He ran away ..... life.
- j. Hope ..... the best, prepare ..... the worst.

### From

- a. The marathon started **from** the school.
- b. Do you live far **from** here?
- c. Start **from** the letter A.
- d. Measure the distance **from** here to there.
- e. The smell is coming **from** the trash can.
- f. There is a strange sound coming **from** outside.
- g. She is **from** Italy.
- h. They moved here **from** Canada.
- i. I'm **from** another country.



### Exercise:

#### Fill in the gaps with appropriate prepositions.

- a. The journey started ..... Khulna to Dhaka.
- b. The workers have come ..... villages.
- c. His condition has gone ..... bad to worse.



- d. I have got a letter ..... my friend.
- e. I have been suffering ..... fever for four days.
- f. Bread is made ..... flour.
- g. Where do you come.....?
- h. These lines have been taken ..... Shakespeare.
- i. The poor people work ..... dawn to dusk.

### In

- a. Mother is **in** the kitchen.
- b. There is no error **in** the writing.
- c. He was born **in** Dhaka.
- d. He went to England **in** 2010.
- e. He spent the day **in** bed.
- f. I can do it **in** a week.
- g. I read it **in** a newspaper.
- h. She looks beautiful **in** a saree.



### Exercise:

#### Fill in the gaps with appropriate prepositions.

- a. He is ..... danger.
- b. They dry fish ..... the sun.
- c. He did this ..... his presence.
- d. I am ..... power.
- e. He wrote ..... black ink.
- f. Cut the apple ..... two.
- g. He lives ..... luxury.
- h. People ..... general are ignorant of health rules.
- i. They were ..... love.
- j. It is a novel ..... three parts.
- k. Do you know the man ..... white dress?
- l. The books were packed ..... bundles.
- m. You may pay the amount ..... part.
- n. He was talking ..... a loud voice.
- o. You should pay ..... advance.
- p. He is young ..... years but old---wisdom.
- q. He will come ..... September.

### Into

- a. Please put your dishes **into** the sink.
- b. We went **into** the room to talk.
- c. I ran **into** an old friend yesterday.
- d. My phone accidentally fell **into** the trash can.
- e. The kids jumped **into** the lake.

- f. He got **into** trouble again at school.



**Exercise:**

**Fill in the gaps with appropriate prepositions.**

- a. She went ..... the shop.
- b. I got ..... trouble.
- c. Look straight ..... the corridor.
- d. He entered ..... the interview board.
- e. This book is translated ..... Bangla.
- f. Cut the paper ..... two pieces.
- g. I ran ..... him yesterday.
- h. The car crashed ..... the wall.
- i. They talked ..... the night.
- j. We rushed ..... the concert.

**On**

- a. The book is **on** the table.
- b. He stood **on** one foot.
- c. They live **on** the Park street.
- d. She sat **on** my left side.
- e. He came here **on** Friday.
- f. Habib was born **on** 9 February.
- g. Everyone **on** the bus was frightened.
- h. The cow lives **on** grass.
- i. I am **on** the phone now.
- j. They went **on** a picnic.



**Exercise:**

**Fill in the gaps with appropriate prepositions.**

- a. We met him ..... the road.
- b. He was ..... the way to Mymensingh.
- c. Mahdi went there..... duty.
- d. Dhaka is ..... the Buriganga.
- e. He lives ..... a small income.
- f. He said this ..... oath.
- g. This story is based ..... fact.
- h. He fainted and fell ..... to the floor.
- i. He retired ..... a small pension.
- j. He bought the machine ..... credit.
- k. His father brought a car ..... hire.
- l. He came here ..... business.

m. This is payable ..... demand.

### To

- a. This road is **to** Dhaka.
- b. Japan is **to** the east of Bangladesh.
- c. I went **to** Dhaka.
- d. The water came up **to** our knees.
- e. It is ten miles from here **to** Dhaka.
- f. I am writing this letter **to** my friend.
- g. We beat them by three goals **to** one.
- h. Add five **to** seven.
- i. It is a quarter **to** six.
- j. I saw fifteen **to** twenty people there.



### Exercise:

**Fill in the gaps with appropriate prepositions.**

- a. He is a secretary ..... the MD.
- b. Japan is ..... the east of Bangladesh.
- c. Mother sang her baby ..... sleep.
- d. It is a quarter ..... six.
- e. Do not start until the lights change from red ..... green.
- f. The fruit is sweet ..... the taste.
- g. He tore the letter ..... pieces.
- h. This picture is true ..... life /nature.
- i. It was .....my advantage.
- j. He refers ..... his friends when necessary.

### Under

- a. Write your name **under** the picture.
- b. The building is **under** construction.
- c. The fire is **under** control.
- d. I am **under** a lot of pressure at work.
- e. He works **under** me.
- f. The cat hid **under** the table.
- g. It is an exemption **under** Article 85.



### Exercise:

**Fill in the gaps with appropriate prepositions.**

- a. He holds a post ..... Government.
- b. I do not like to work .....him.

- c. The case is now .....trial.
- d. The India ..... the Moghals was very prosperous.
- e. How long can you stay ..... water?
- f. Your application is ..... consideration.
- g. This is a road ..... repair.
- h. The cat is..... the table.
- i. We passed ..... many bridges.
- j. Fish move ..... water.
- k. He is an officer ..... the rank of captain.
- l. This is a matter ..... discussion.

**Over**

- a. Spread a cloth **over** the table.
- b. The birds flew **over** the top of the pitcher.
- c. He held an umbrella **over** my head.
- d. We had a pleasant talk **over** a cup of tea.
- e. They climbed **over** a wall.



**Exercise:**

**Fill in the gaps with appropriate prepositions.**

- a. The river is ..... fifty miles long.
- b. He spoke for ..... an hour.
- c. The wires ..... the streets are dangerous.
- d. Mr. Khan is ..... you in the office.
- e. He is famous all ..... the world.
- f. He ruled ..... vast empire.

**Through**

- a. The bullet went **through** the wall.
- b. He walked **through** the door.
- c. We walked **through** the corn field.
- d. We made our way **through** the maze.



**Exercise:**

**Fill in the gaps with appropriate prepositions.**

- a. My friends and I drove ..... the state.
- b. We passed ..... my hometown.
- c. Summer school goes from June ..... August.

- d. I heard about the program ..... a friend.

### With

- Do not keep company **with** a bad boy.
- It is a coat **with** two pockets.
- The hills are covered **with** snow.
- A baby **with** no clothes came here
- We write **with** a pen.
- I saw him **with** his friend.
- He cut the mango **with** a knife.
- With** all her faults, I still like her.



### Exercise:

#### Fill in the gaps with appropriate prepositions.

- What's your business .....
- He was trembling ..... fear.
- It is a habit ..... some people.
- Did you see it ..... your own eyes?
- He was standing ..... his hands in his pockets
- We were sailing ..... the current.
- He fought ..... his brother.
- Teacher marks the mistakes ..... a red pen.
- I have a good term ..... his father.
- He always solves the problems in consultation ..... the elders.

### Within

- They found mice **within** the walls.
- I live **within** the school zone.
- Come back **within** ten minutes.
- She recovered from her accident **within** weeks.
- Restaurants are **within** walking distance of my apartment.



### Exercise:

#### Fill in the gaps with appropriate prepositions.

- I will come back ..... an hour.
- He visited the place twice ..... a month.

- c. You should play ..... the school ground.
- d. We are now ..... ten miles of Dhaka.
- e. There has been a change ..... the country.
- f. The books are ..... my reach.

### Without

- a. They left **without** me.
- b. I built this table **without** any help.
- c. I can do this **without** your assistance.
- d. I made cookies **without** sugar and it was awful.
- e. **Without** water, the plants will die.



### Exercise:

#### Fill in the gaps with appropriate prepositions.

- a. He left..... his umbrella and it's raining now.
- b. My grandfather can't walk ..... his cane.
- c. I can't see anything ..... my glasses.
- d. I couldn't have done this ..... your support.
- e. I cannot do this ..... your help.
- f. Life would be boring ..... laughter.