

## Prepositions

Les paraules anomenades prepositions (és a dir les que van a la posició del davant) formen tota una categoria gramatical. Són una part del discurs molt important encara que hi a qui diu que son buides de significat; però això ho podríem discutir. Les preposicions són invariables, és a dir que no tenen gènere ni nombre.

Les preposicions relacionen nouns or pronouns amb d'altres paraules de la oració i quan es combinen amb sintagmes nominals (noun phrases) s'anomenen prepositional phrases. També veurem el que és anomenat locució preposicional (complex preposition). Es tracta d'una associació de preposicions per construir una locució, generalment associada a un **verb phrase**.

Finalment cal apuntar que quan la preposició forma part d'un phrasal verb acostuma a ser anomenada **particle**.

Les preposicions ens marquen principalment relaccions de: **agency** (*by*); **comparison** (*like, as . . . as*); **direction** (*to, toward, through*); **place** (*at, by, on*); **possession** (*of*); **purpose** (*for*); **source** (*from, out of*); **and time** (*at, before, on*).

### Simple Prepositions:

aboard	beyond	past
about	by	regarding
above	despite	round
across	down	since
after	during	than
against	for	through
along	from	throughout
amid	in	till
among	inside	to
around	into	toward
as	like	under
at	near	unlike
atop	of	until
before	off	up
behind	on	upon
below	onto	with
beneath	out	within
beside	outside	without
between	over	

### • Uses of the Prepositions *of*, *to*, and *by*

In English, three **prepositions**, anomenades *of*, *to* and *by*, play roles molt estretament integrats amb el concepte de cas (case) and la estructura gramatical of les oracions. Així:

- *of* is associated with a variety of possessive or (loosely speaking) 'genitive' constructions, as in *the book of the teacher*, *the arrival of the ferry* and *the mortification of the flesh*
- *to* is a marker of indirect objects or 'dative case,' as in *We donated our earnings to the Dog and Cat Home*
- *by* marks the noun phrase, nominative, in a passive clause corresponding to the subject of the related active clause, as in *We were ruined by the currency speculators* or *Our ruination by the currency speculators*.

(James R. Hurford, *Grammar: A Student's Guide*.  
Cambridge University Press, 1994)

### • Problemes amb les prepositions!!

"Learners seem to make mistakes with **prepositions** for various reasons.

"Some of these reasons have to do with English itself: For example, a learner may say **by** *random* instead of **at** *random*, because *by* and *at* are de vegades similar in meaning, and/or because *random* and *chance* poden ser similar in meaning (e.g. *a random result* ~ *a chance result*), or because the phrases *by chance* and *at random* are similar enough in meaning to induce unintentional cross-association ('cross-swapping'-'encreuament') of words. . . .

"More often perhaps, més sovint, pot ser, els errors neixen from differences between English and the mother tongue. For instance, Japanese has *postpositions* not *prepositions* (and not many of them) while Korean has no such words at all."

(Seth Lindstromberg, *English Prepositions Explained*,  
2nd ed. John Benjamins, 2010)

### • Terminal Prepositions

"The **Preposition** *at* the end *of* a sentence; a common fault *with* [Ben Jonson], and which I have but lately observ'd *in* my own writings."

(John Dryden)

"Those who lay down the universal principle that final **prepositions** are 'inelegant' are unconsciously trying to deprive the English language *of* a valuable idiomatic resource, which has been used freely *by* all our greatest writers."

(Henry Fowler, *Modern English Usage*, 1921)

"Contrary to popular belief, it is not a mortal sin to end a sentence with a preposition, as long as the sentence sounds natural and its meaning is clear. . . . It is absolutely antiquated to forbid ending a sentence with a preposition."

(Michael Strumpf and Auriel Douglas, *The Grammar Bible*. Henry Holt and Company, 2004)

"I lately lost a preposition:  
 It hid, I thought, beneath my chair.  
 And angrily I cried: "Perdition!  
 Up from out of in under there!"  
 "Correctness is my vade mecum,  
 And straggling phrases I abhor;  
 And yet I wondered: "What should he come  
 Up from out of in under for?"

(Morris Bishop, "The Naughty Preposition")

- **Deverbal Prepositions**

Transitive **prepositions** that prenen forma de verbs tant en form as [-ing participles](#) or [-ed participles](#) són dites *deverbal prepositions*. . . .

according (to)	gone
allowing (for)	granted
barring	including
concerning	owing (to)
counting	pertaining (to)
excepting	regarding
excluding	respecting
failing	saving
following	touching
given	wanting

(Bas Aarts, *Oxford Modern English Grammar*. Oxford University Press, 2011)

- **A New Preposition: *Because*...** "Let's start with the dull stuff, because pragmatism."

"The word *because*, in [standard English usage](#), is a [subordinating conjunction](#), which means that it connects two parts of a sentence in which one (the subordinate) explains the other. . . .

"I mention all that . . . because language. Because evolution. Because there is another way to use *because*. [Linguists](#) are calling it the *prepositional-because*. Or the *because-noun*.

"You probably know it better, however, as explanation by way of Internet--explanation that maximizes efficiency and [irony](#) in equal measure. *I'm late because YouTube. You're reading this because procrastination*. As the language writer Stan Carey delightfully sums it up: '*Because* has become a **preposition**, because [grammar](#).'"

(Megan Garber, "English Has a New Preposition, Because Internet."  
*The Atlantic*, November 19, 2013)