



Learn English Through Stories

T Series

Upper - Intermediate

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Banta Learning Prepositions 1 by K S Sandhu

The Hidden Treasure

In the bustling city of Eldoria, two adventurous friends, Reena and Alex, embarked on a mysterious expedition. They had discovered an ancient map concealed in an old library book, promising a long-lost artefact. The map was enigmatic, filled with clues that required them to decipher riddles involving various locations. In spite of the perilous journey ahead, they were determined to find the treasure.

They started their quest at the central park, where the first clue was hidden under a wooden bench. "Look, it's below the seat," Reena whispered, pulling out a small note. The note read: "Go to the fountain in the square, and stand in front of the statue." Excited, they hurried over, weaving between the crowds of people strolling among the flower beds.

Arriving at the square, they positioned themselves right in front of the grand statue of a warrior. Opposite them was a tall clock tower, its hands ticking steadily. "The next hint should be near the base," Alex said, searching around. Sure enough, tucked beside a stone pillar, they found another clue: "Proceed to the old bridge, and look on top of the arch."

As they walked along the riverbank, they passed by a cosy café next to the water. The sun shone above them, casting shadows over the path. During their trek, a sudden rain shower began, but in spite of the downpour, they pressed on with umbrellas in hand.

At the bridge, they climbed carefully and spotted a marking on top of the highest point. It directed them to a nearby forest: "Enter into the woods, and search behind the largest oak tree." The forest was dense, with branches hanging low. They ventured deeper, stepping over roots and avoiding puddles below their feet.

Among the trees, they found the oak, its trunk leaning against a rocky hill. Behind it lay a hidden path leading to a cave. "Be careful," Reena warned. "The entrance is narrow." They squeezed through, emerging into a dimly lit chamber. On the wall, etched in stone, was the final riddle: "The treasure rests under the altar, between two pillars, beside a crystal stream."

They approached the altar cautiously. Above it hung a lantern, flickering with an eerie light. Below the stone slab, they dug carefully, their hands scraping

against the earth. Suddenly, Alex shouted, "Get out of the way!" as a small rock tumbled from overhead.

For a moment, they paused, but their determination triumphed. Among the dirt, they uncovered an ornate chest. Inside was the artefact—a golden amulet, glowing mysteriously. Triumphant, they emerged from the cave before dusk fell, sharing stories of their adventure near the riverbank.

Back in the city, they celebrated at a café, reflecting on the journey. The experience had not only brought them closer but also taught them the value of perseverance in the face of challenges.

Questions:

Question 1: Where did Reena and Alex find the first clue?

Question 2: What place was opposite the statue in the square?

Question 3: In spite of what difficulty did the friends continue their journey to the old bridge?

Question 4: Where exactly was the treasure hidden according to the final riddle?

Question 5: How did Reena and Alex feel at the end when they returned to the city?

Answers:

Answer 1: They found the first clue under a wooden bench in the central park.

Answer 2: A tall clock tower was opposite the statue.

Answer 3: In spite of a sudden rain shower / the downpour, they continued their journey to the old bridge.

Answer 4: The treasure was hidden under the altar, between two pillars, beside a crystal stream.

Answer 5: They felt triumphant / happy and proud (because they had found the treasure and completed the adventure successfully).

14 General form and use; prepositions of place

1 Form

Prepositions are usually one word, but some have two or more words:

one word	at for by with against towards
two words	apart from because of due to out of away from next to
three words	on top of in front of by means of in spite of

They are usually followed by a noun or a pronoun:

Wait for me **at the bus stop**. I've had a terrible day. Let me tell you **about it**.

If we use a verb after a preposition, we use the -ing form:

You can lose weight **by eating less and doing more exercise**.

Marilyn got the job **in spite of being late for the interview**.

We can use some prepositions on their own, as adverbs:

Jason hasn't finished his work. He seems to be falling **behind**.

Have you been here **before**?

We can put prepositions at the end of questions and relative clauses:

Who are you looking **at**? This is Becky – she's the girl I used to share a flat **with**.

Wh- questions + prepositions ➤ Unit 62.3 Prepositions in relative clauses ➤ Unit 72.4

For a full list of common prepositions ➤ page 338–9

2 Use

Prepositions show relationships (of place, time, etc.) between the parts of a sentence:

place	That's my bike – the one against the wall.
movement	Go across the bridge and into the station.
time	My grandfather was in hospital during the last days of the war.
means	You can contact us by phone or email.
instrument	Please complete the form with a black pen.
purpose	These little hooks are used for hanging pictures on the wall.

3 Prepositions of place: in, on, at

Prepositions of place describe where one person or thing is in relation to another:



Your watch is **in** the drawer. The keys are **in** the car.

(+ town/country) **in** Warsaw/Poland; Paul's **in** Japan on business.

in prison/hospital; **in** the newspaper/a book



Your watch is **on** the table. My office is **on** the third floor.

London is **on** the River Thames.

on the floor/wall/ceiling; **on** the left/right;

on page 20; **on** a train/bus/plane (but **in** a car)

We use **at** to describe the exact or approximate position of something:

It's **at** the end of the car park. The train stops **at** Preston. Can we sit **at** a window table?






at the top/bottom/end of ...; **at** a wedding/concert/meeting; **at** the office/station/airport

We can use **at** or **in** with buildings, but the meaning is different. Compare:

I can't talk. I'm **at** the cinema. (I'm watching / going to watch a film.)

I'm waiting for Karen **in** the cinema. (I'm inside the building.)

4 under, below, over, above, on top of

		MEANING	EXAMPLES
under		in a lower position (close or touching)	The documents are under that file on the desk. Put the rubbish in the bin under the sink.
below		in a lower position	Arianne lives in the apartment below me. We have a big cupboard below the stairs.
over		in a higher position (close or touching)	The sign over the door said 'entrance'. Put covers over the furniture before you paint the room.
above		in a higher position	There's a helicopter flying round above the school. The dentist's is above the bank.
on top of		in a higher position, touching	Can you get my bag, please? It's on top of the wardrobe.

5 next to, by, beside, near

We use *next to*, *by* and *beside* to say that something is close:

The keys are **next to/by/beside** my bag, in the living room.

I'd love to live **by/beside/next to** the sea.

Near means 'not very far away'. Compare:

It's useful to live **near** an airport but I don't want to live **next to** one as the noise would be awful.

! We usually use *near* with towns or cities, not *next to*, *by* or *beside*:

✗ *Emin lives next to/by/beside Istanbul.* ✓ *Emin lives near Istanbul.*

6 in front of, opposite

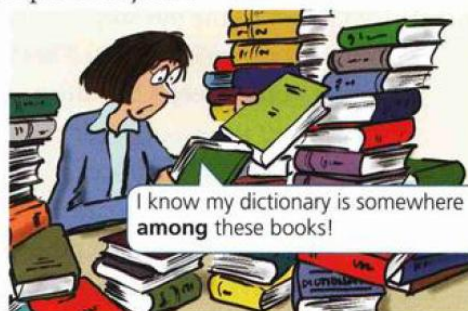
Joanne always sits **in front of** Simone in class, and she always sits **opposite** her at lunch.



7 between and among

The prepositions *between* and *among* have different meanings.

- *Between* means 'with one or more people/objects on either side'.
- *Among* means 'surrounded by more than two people or objects'.



Practice

1 **Underline** the preposition in each sentence, then choose the correct word in *italics* to show the type of preposition.

- | | |
|---|----------------------|
| 0 Can you meet me <u>in front of</u> the snack bar later? | <u>place</u> / time |
| 1 Can you meet me at half-past eight? | place / time |
| 2 Can you get the spoons out of the drawer, please? | place / movement |
| 3 They've been making cars for more than seventy years. | purpose / time |
| 4 Joanna is moving away from home next year. | means / movement |
| 5 You can contact us by email or text message. | means / purpose |
| 6 Use a sharper knife for cutting meat. | time / purpose |
| 7 The door can only be opened with a special key. | purpose / instrument |
| 8 The refugees escaped by using false passports. | means / movement |

2 Write a sentence about each picture, using the words and phrases below and a preposition from the box. Use the past simple tense. 2.27 Listen and check.



above among at between in in front of on opposite under

- 0 Dana and Leona / meet / a plane
- 1 Derek / wait / the bus stop / for hours
- 2 I / leave / my coat / the car / last night
- 3 the cat / often sleep / the duvet
- 4 they / live / the greengrocer's
- 5 Lori / live / the greengrocer's
- 6 we / park / the car / the cinema
- 7 the girls / have / a picnic / pine trees
- 8 Jacob / always / sit / the two girls

Dana and Leona met on a plane.

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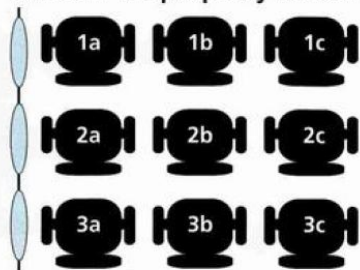
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3 Nine friends are taking a flight together to Stockholm. Read the sentences and write the names of the people by the correct seat numbers.



1a 1b 1c
 2a 2b *Len* 2c
 3a 3b 3c

- Jack and his wife, Jane, are sitting in the front row. Jane hates flying and never sits by the window. She's sitting between her sister, Ella, who loves looking out of the window, and her husband.
- Marga is sitting in row 3, between two other members of the group.
- Len is sitting in the centre seat of the second row – he's flying home to Sweden to celebrate his birthday, with his wife, Anna, who is sitting next to him.
- Steph is sitting in front of her husband, Vince, who always wants an aisle seat because of his long legs.
- Nils is also from Sweden. He's Len's brother-in-law. Nils' sister is sitting in front of him.

4 **GRAMMAR IN USE** Read the text and choose the correct answer, A, B or C below.

2.28 Listen and check.

The Amanjena Hotel is one of the finest luxury hotels (0) Morocco. Situated in beautiful grounds (1) the fascinating town of Marrakech, it is easy to get to. The standard rooms are all individual buildings and are all situated (2) palm trees and mature olive trees. (3) each comfortable room there is a king-sized bed as well as a mini-bar, CD player, TV and DVD. There is also a small private garden with a fountain (4) each room, where guests can relax. Breakfast is served each morning (5) the swimming pool, and guests can have dinner (6) one of the hotel's two restaurants - serving Moroccan and international food. For those who want to shop, art, jewellery and handmade gifts are available (7) the three shops within the hotel complex, and there is a wide variety of shops (8) nearby Marrakech.

- | | | | | | |
|-----------------|------|---------------------------------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|
| 0 A at | B by | <input checked="" type="radio"/> C in | 5 A in | B over | C by |
| 1 A near | B at | C next to | 6 A at | B opposite | C between |
| 2 A among | B in | C between | 7 A next to | B in front of | C at |
| 3 A At | B In | C On | 8 A in | B near | C on top of |
| 4 A in front of | B in | C at | | | |

5 Write about your bedroom, using the phrases in brackets to help you.

- 0 (next to my bed) *There's a little table and a lamp next to my bed.*
- 1 (next to my bed)
- 2 (under the bed)
- 3 (on the walls)
- 4 (on top of the wardrobe)
- 5 (opposite the bedroom window)

Answers

UNIT 14

1 1 at (time) 2 out of (movement) 3 for (time)
4 away from (movement) 5 by (means) 6 for
(purpose) 7 with (instrument) 8 by (means)

2 1 Derek waited at the bus stop for hours.
2 I left my coat in the car last night.
3 The cat often slept under the duvet.
4 They lived above the greengrocer's.
5 Lori lived opposite the greengrocer's.
6 We parked our car in front of the cinema.
7 The girls had a picnic among the pine trees.
8 Jacob always sat between the two girls.

3 1a Ella 1b Jane 1c Jack 2a Anna 2b Len
2c Steph 3a Nils 3b Marga 3c Vince

4 1 A 2 A 3 B 4 A 5 C 6 A 7 C 8 A

5 Model answers

- 1 *There are some books next to my bed.*
- 2 *There are shoes and boots under the bed.*
- 3 *There's a clock and some pictures on the walls.*
- 4 *There isn't anything on top of the wardrobe.*
- 5 *There's another house opposite the bedroom window.*