

# Complex prepositions

Lesson code: 3N1T-97IF-7XCH

INTERMEDIATE

## 1 Presentation 1 - Time and place

Complex prepositions are phrases of two or more words which have the same function as one-word prepositions. Study the table below.

Complex preposition	Example of use
ahead of	Usain is going to win this race. He's <b>ahead of</b> the other runners.
away from	The cat ran <b>away from</b> the dangerous dog.
close to	I don't need to commute to work everyday. The office is very <b>close to</b> my house.
in between	The Irish Sea is <b>in between</b> Ireland and Britain.
in front of	The dog ran <b>in front of</b> the car and was nearly killed!
near to	There is a gym <b>near to</b> my office, which is really convenient. It's just 5 minutes' walk.
next to	Who's that man standing <b>next to</b> your car?
on top of	I dream of standing <b>on top of</b> Mount Everest.
out of	He took a cigarette <b>out of</b> the pack and smoked it.
outside of	There's a large forest <b>outside of</b> my town.
prior to ( <i>formal</i> )	I'd never spoken to an Italian <b>prior to</b> meeting him.
up to	The present perfect tense describes a situation that started in the past and continues <b>up to</b> now.



## 2 Practice 1

Complete each sentence using one of the complex prepositions below.

ahead of	away from	in between	in front of	near to	next to
on top of	out of	Outside of	prior to	up to	

- There's a cat sitting \_\_\_\_\_ the garage. Can you get up there and make it leave?
- Where's the mouse? It was \_\_\_\_\_ the keyboard, but I don't see it anymore.
- The police car stopped \_\_\_\_\_ the driver to make him stop.
- Take your hands \_\_\_\_\_ your pockets and help me.
- Did you learn any Italian \_\_\_\_\_ moving to Italy?
- I found a note \_\_\_\_\_ the cover and the first page of the book.
- \_\_\_\_\_ the main cities, there's only desert.
- You don't need to take the bus. The cafe is very \_\_\_\_\_ my house.
- The fire was very hot, so we tried to stand \_\_\_\_\_ the flames.
- At the moment, Julia is \_\_\_\_\_ me, but I still have a chance to reach her.
- The business was very successful \_\_\_\_\_ 2010. After that year, profits started to fall.

## 3 Practice 2

Complete each sentence with a complex preposition plus one of the following:

2001	a hat	his competitors	me
1945	the hill	two policemen	your house

- The Second World War lasted from 1939 up to 1945 .
- He was standing right \_\_\_\_\_ . I couldn't see a thing.
- Kate was standing \_\_\_\_\_ -- one to her left and one to her right. She felt very safe.
- \_\_\_\_\_ , you could fly to the United States without strict security checks.
- If you stand \_\_\_\_\_ , you can see the whole village.
- The magician pulled a rabbit \_\_\_\_\_ . Everybody was amazed.
- The runner was \_\_\_\_\_ for most of the marathon. But he lost the race in the last 10 minutes!
- "Who are those people who live \_\_\_\_\_ ?" "They are my new neighbours."

## 4 Practice 3

Choose five complex prepositions from the table on Page 1 and make one true sentence for each preposition.



## 5 Presentation 2 - Other complex prepositions

Study the complex prepositions below and do the exercises on the next page.

Complex preposition	Example
according to	<b>According to</b> John, Michael is very rich. <b>According to</b> Elena, he has lots of debts. You can trust Elena.
along with	We needed a bigger group to enter the club, so we decided to bring Kate <b>along with</b> us.
apart from	<b>Apart from</b> the salty soup, the meal was really good.
as well as	If you telephone <b>as well as</b> write, he'll get your message for sure.
because of	Sam was dismissed from his job <b>because of</b> his bad behaviour.
due to	Temperatures are rising <b>due to</b> global warming.
except for	Everybody was at the party <b>except for</b> Dean, who was not invited.
in addition to	<b>In addition to</b> Russia, two countries are bigger than the United States — China and Canada.
in case of	<b>In case of</b> fire, leave the building immediately.
in spite of	<b>In spite of</b> their differences, Joe and Michael are good friends.
instead of	Peter doesn't drink alcohol, so he ordered a juice <b>instead of</b> a beer.
thanks to	<b>Thanks to</b> Angela, we managed to find the right street.
with regard to ( <i>formal</i> )	I'd like to speak to you <b>with regard to</b> the work you did for me.



## 6 Practice 4

Complete each sentence using one of the complex prepositions below.

according to  
except for  
instead of

along with  
except for  
thanks to

as well as  
in case of  
with regard to

because of  
in spite of

1. Tom is going to be promoted \_\_\_\_\_ his hard work.
2. Everybody went to bed early \_\_\_\_\_ Jenny, who decided to watch YouTube videos all night.
3. Phillip decided to go out for a walk \_\_\_\_\_ freezing weather.
4. The teacher spoke to Jack's parents \_\_\_\_\_ their son's performance at school.
5. I'm very good friends with your new boss — you only got the job \_\_\_\_\_ me!
6. You should use olive oil \_\_\_\_\_ butter. It's healthier.
7. If you want to improve the taste of this dish, you should use pepper \_\_\_\_\_ salt. The more spices, the better!
8. The supermarket is open everyday until 8pm \_\_\_\_\_ Sunday, when it closes at 5pm.
9. Only couples are allowed at the party, so take Emma \_\_\_\_\_ you.
10. It's going to be a sunny day today, \_\_\_\_\_ the weather forecast .
11. I'm travelling this week, but you can call me \_\_\_\_\_ a problem.

## 7 Practice 5

Choose five complex prepositions from the table on Page 3 and make one true sentence for each preposition.



## 1 Presentation 1 - Time and place

*Go through the prepositions. Clarify meaning or translate them.*

## 2 Practice 1

- |              |               |                |            |
|--------------|---------------|----------------|------------|
| 1. on top of | 2. next to    | 3. in front of | 4. out of  |
| 5. prior to  | 6. in between | 7. Outside of  | 8. near to |
| 9. away from | 10. ahead of  | 11. up to      |            |

## 3 Practice 2

- |                       |                             |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2. in front of me     | 3. in between two policemen |
| 4. Prior to 2001      | 5. on top of the hill       |
| 6. out of a hat       | 7. ahead of his competitors |
| 8. next to your house |                             |

## 5 Presentation 2 - Other complex prepositions

*Go through the prepositions. Clarify meaning or translate them.*

## 6 Practice 4

- |               |                  |                |                   |
|---------------|------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| 1. because of | 2. except for    | 3. in spite of | 4. with regard to |
| 5. thanks to  | 6. instead of    | 7. as well as  | 8. except for     |
| 9. along with | 10. according to | 11. in case of |                   |

