

ArivArk General English Video Series

Prepositions: Practice Questions

Group 2/2A Prelims: General English, Grammar

Real questions: TNPSC previous year questions (Group 2 2022 and Group 2 2024 as marked in the PYQ bank; Group 2/2A 2025 official tentative key). Practice questions: ArivArk Academy.

The basics

What is a preposition? PRE (before) + POSITION (place). A preposition comes **before a noun or a pronoun** and shows how that noun is related to the other words in the sentence: *The book is **on** the table.* (on shows where the book is.)

Time: at, on, in, since, for, by

Preposition	Use it for	Example
at	an exact time	The class starts at nine o'clock. at noon, at night
on	days and dates	We met on Monday. on 15 August
in	months, years, seasons, long periods	He was born in 1960. in May, in summer
since	a starting point (with have / has / had)	I have lived here since Monday.
for	a length of time	I have lived here for three days.
by	not later than (a deadline)	Submit the form by Monday.

Place: at, on, in, into, between, among, beside, besides

Preposition	Meaning	Example
at	a point	He is at the bus stop.
on	a surface	The book is on the table.
in	inside a space (no movement)	The keys are in my bag.
into	movement to the inside	He put the keys into my bag.

Preposition	Meaning	Example
between	two people or things	Divide the cake between Ravi and Mala.
among	more than two	Share the sweets among the students.
beside	next to	She sat beside me.
besides	in addition to	Besides English, he knows French.
behind	at the back of	The Moon shines bright behind the clouds.
over	covering, above and on	She poured the sauce over the pasta.

Movement and other uses

Preposition	Meaning	Example
across	from one side to the other side	We walked across the road. a bridge across the river
through	inside something, from one end to the other end	She walked through the dark forest.
along	following a line	They walked along the river.
towards	in the direction of	She came towards me.
by / with	by = the doer or the way; with = the tool	The letter was written by Ravi with a pen.
upon	a formal word for on	Miranda hung upon her father (held on to him tightly).

Fixed prepositions: no rule, remember them

Word + preposition	Example	Word + preposition	Example
good at	She is good at maths.	afraid of	He is afraid of dogs.
interested in	I am interested in music.	depend on	It depends on the weather.
prefer ... to	I prefer tea to coffee.	differ from	This book differs from that one.
agree with (a person)	I agree with you.	agree to (a plan)	We agree to the plan.

Word + preposition	Example	Word + preposition	Example
fond of	She is fond of music.	married to	He is married to a doctor.
insist on	He insisted on paying.	congratulate on	I congratulate you on your success.
superior to	This cloth is superior to that.	senior to	She is senior to me.
proud of	We are proud of our team.	aware of	Are you aware of the rule?

Common mistakes

- "discuss about".** Discuss takes no preposition. Say: We discuss a topic. Never: We discuss about a topic.
 - "since two years".** Since needs a starting point (since 2024, since Monday). For a length of time, use for: I have lived here for two years.
 - "prefer ... than".** After prefer, use to: I prefer tea to coffee.
 - between for many.** Between is for two; among is for more than two: Divide the cake among the three children.
 - in / into.** In shows a place (The cat is in the box); into shows movement to the inside (The cat jumped into the box).
 - "enter into the room", "reach to the station".** Enter and reach take no preposition: He entered the room. We reached the station.
 - beside / besides.** Beside = next to; besides = in addition to.
- One simple trick:** at for a point, on for a surface, in for inside, into for movement, between for two, among for many.

TNPSC PYQs: all 8 preposition questions

1. [TNPSC PYQ Group 2 2022] Fill in the blank with the suitable preposition from the options given below.

The Government built a bridge ____ the river.

- | | |
|-------------|-----------|
| (A) Between | (B) Above |
| (C) Across | (D) Along |

Answer: (C) Across. A bridge goes from one bank of the river to the other bank: across. Along would mean following the river.

2. [TNPSC PYQ Group 2 2022] Fill in the blank with the suitable preposition.

He was born ____ 1960.

- | | |
|--------|-----------|
| (A) In | (B) On |
| (C) At | (D) Since |

Answer: (A) In. With a year, use in (in 1960, in May). On is for days and dates; at for an exact time; since needs a perfect tense.

3. [TNPSC PYQ Group 2 2024] Choose the correct preposition:

Miranda hung ____ her father saying, "Why are you so ungente?"

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| (A) upon | (B) on |
| (C) in | (D) with |

Answer: (A) upon. Hang upon means to hold on to someone tightly; upon is the formal form of on, used in this story.

4. [TNPSC PYQ Group 2/2A 2025] Choose the correct preposition.

The Moon shines bright ____ the clouds.

- | | |
|------------|-------------|
| (A) Beside | (B) Among |
| (C) Behind | (D) Between |

Answer: (C) Behind. The Moon is at the back of the clouds: behind. (Official key.)

5. [TNPSC PYQ Group 2/2A 2025] Fill in the blanks with the suitable preposition.

She poured the sauce ____ the pasta.

- | | |
|-------------|-----------|
| (A) through | (B) about |
| (C) out | (D) over |

Answer: (D) over. The sauce comes down and covers the top of the pasta: over. (Official key.)

6. [TNPSC PYQ Group 2/2A 2025] Fill in the blanks with a suitable preposition.

He had been ____ a difficult experience.

- | | |
|-------------|--------------|
| (A) to | (B) towards |
| (C) through | (D) thorough |

Answer: (C) through. To go through an experience is to live through it from start to end. Thorough (complete) is an adjective, not a preposition. (Official key.)

7. [TNPSC PYQ Group 2/2A 2025] Fill in the blanks with a suitable preposition.

When she came ____ me shouting, I retreated behind my desk.

- | | |
|-------------|----------|
| (A) through | (B) to |
| (C) towards | (D) till |

Answer: (C) towards. She moved in my direction: towards. (Official key.)

The question from the video

1. [TNPSC PYQ Group 2 2024] Identify the correct preposition from the options given below.

I will have finished this essay ____ Friday.

- | | |
|--------|--------|
| (A) in | (B) on |
| (C) at | (D) by |

Answer: (D) by (PYQ bank). By means "not later than". The future perfect (will have finished) talks about a deadline, so by Friday. On Friday would mean the work happens on that day.

Practice MCQs

1. The train leaves ____ 6.30 p.m.

(A) by

(B) at

(C) in

(D) on

2. My birthday falls ____ 15 August.

(A) on

(B) at

(C) in

(D) since

3. She was born ____ March.

(A) at

(B) by

(C) in

(D) on

4. He has been ill ____ last Sunday.

(A) from

(B) by

(C) since

(D) for

5. They have lived in Chennai ____ ten years.

(A) since

(B) for

(C) by

(D) from

6. The boy dived ____ the pool.

(A) into

(B) on

(C) in

(D) at

7. Divide the mangoes ____ Ravi and Mala.

(A) beside

(B) among

(C) with

(D) between

8. ____ Tamil, she speaks Hindi and English.

- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| (A) Among | (B) Between |
| (C) Besides | (D) Beside |

9. He cut the bread ____ a knife.

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| (A) from | (B) by |
| (C) of | (D) with |

10. The novel was written ____ R. K. Narayan.

- | | |
|----------|--------|
| (A) with | (B) of |
| (C) from | (D) by |

11. I am fond ____ music.

- | | |
|----------|--------|
| (A) at | (B) in |
| (C) with | (D) of |

12. She is married ____ a doctor.

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| (A) by | (B) from |
| (C) with | (D) to |

13. He insisted ____ paying the bill.

- | | |
|--------|---------|
| (A) to | (B) for |
| (C) on | (D) at |

14. We walked ____ the road to reach the shop on the other side.

- | | |
|------------|-------------|
| (A) across | (B) along |
| (C) among | (D) through |

15. Which sentence is correct?

(A) We discussed for the problem.

(B) We discussed the problem.

(C) We discussed on the problem.

(D) We discussed about the problem.

Answer key: 1 B, 2 A, 3 C, 4 C, 5 B, 6 A, 7 D, 8 C, 9 D, 10 D, 11 D, 12 D, 13 C, 14 A, 15 B**Why? Short explanations****1 (B)** An exact time takes at.**2 (A)** A date takes on.**3 (C)** A month takes in.**4 (C)** Last Sunday is a starting point: since.**5 (B)** Ten years is a length of time: for.**6 (A)** Movement to the inside: into.**7 (D)** Two people: between.**8 (C)** In addition to Tamil: besides.**9 (D)** A knife is the tool: with.**10 (D)** The doer in a passive sentence: by.**11 (D)** Fixed pair: fond of.**12 (D)** Fixed pair: married to (never married with).**13 (C)** Fixed pair: insist on.**14 (A)** From one side to the other side: across.**15 (B)** Discuss takes no preposition.