

## SOME HELP WITH PREPOSITIONS - answer keys

### To - For - Of - From

1. **To:** direction, movement, **purpose** (usually before a verb in the infinitive)

Exs : *She drove to Tampa to attend a conference.*

*Did you go to Susan's party?*

*Please, give this book to your sister.*

2. **For :**

- a. purpose (usually before a noun)

I did it for the money.

- b. the one who receives : (benefit )

I bought it for you.

A new style for girls' hair.

- c. support (in favor of)

Some reps voted for the proposal.

- d. a kind of comparison:

This is too difficult for me.

She is very advanced for her age.

- e. a period of time:

We've been here for half an hour.

He waited for her for years.

They'll be away for a month.

3. **From :**

- a. Origin:

Ex: I came from Barcelona.

He borrowed the money from his sister

- b. Separation, distinction I bought it for you.

Butter is different from margarine.

4. **Of :**

(this preposition expresses many kinds of relationships)

- a. Possession:

The symphonies of Mozart;

A man of few words;

The University friends of my father's;

- b. Material: made of gold, a door of solid steel;
- c. Quantity / contents:  
A glass of water;  
A piece of paper;  
A pound of tomatoes;
- d. Result :  
He died of a heart attack;  
Of old age;

\* Verbs which take to:

*give*

*send*

*take*

*tell* to

*say*

*bring*

*lend*

\* Verbs which take for:

*buy*

*bake*

*make*

*vote* for

*explain*

*describe*

5. **In - On - At**

a. **With time expressions:**

**IN** - months, years  
- periods of time

Ex: in May , in 1995;  
Ex: in 2 minutes, in a week , in 5 day;  
in the morning, in the afternoon, in the evening;

**ON** - days of the week Ex: on Mondays, on Saturdays, on the weekend;  
- complete dates Ex: on September 19 th , 1995;  
- with time expressions: on a beautiful day;  
- other usage : on vacation , on holiday , on business , on strike , on the job;

**AT** - hours Ex: at 7 o'clock, at midday, at midnight, at noon;  
- with other expressions: at night, at dawn;

b. **With places:**

**IN** - specific, determined

Ex: in a school, in the house;  
in a office, in the classroom;  
in a restaurant, in the movies;

**ON** - streets, avenues  
- on the surface of

Ex: on Main Street, on Fifth Avenue;  
Ex: on the table, on the floor, on the lap;

**AT** - specific, but not determined  
(nearly)

Ex: at school, at Victoria Theater;  
at Macy's, at the park;  
at Bob's, at the table , black board;

c. **With other expressions:**

Ex: at home;  
at sea;  
at work;

*OBS: When "the" does not follow the prepositions (in, on, at) the word is being used for its purpose.*

*Compare: She's in class (she's having a class) - She's in the class (she's there, in the classroom)*

*He's in hospital (he's sick) - He's in the hospital (he might be there visiting)*

**EXERCISES:**

Complete the following sentences with the correct preposition:

1. How long has she been \_\_\_\_\_ hospital?
2. Will he be sent \_\_\_\_\_ prison?
3. Which university are you \_\_\_\_\_?
4. He's busy. He is \_\_\_\_\_ class \_\_\_\_\_ the moment.
5. Why won't you come \_\_\_\_\_ church with us?
6. I am \_\_\_\_\_ work until 5:30 most days.
7. I'll meet you \_\_\_\_\_ the airport.
8. One day a stranger came \_\_\_\_\_ town.
9. You are \_\_\_\_\_ serious trouble.
10. The ship was \_\_\_\_\_ sea for ten days.
11. How do the children get \_\_\_\_\_ school \_\_\_\_\_ the morning?
12. He'll end up \_\_\_\_\_ prison if he's not careful.
13. The course begins \_\_\_\_\_ 7 January and ends \_\_\_\_\_ 10 March.
14. I went to bed \_\_\_\_\_ midnight and got up \_\_\_\_\_ 6:30 the next morning.
15. Jack's brother is an engineer and he is out of work \_\_\_\_\_ the moment.
16. I'm just going out to do some shopping. I'll be back \_\_\_\_\_ half an hour.
17. The telephone and the doorbell rang \_\_\_\_\_ the same time.
18. Mary and Henry always go out for dinner \_\_\_\_\_ their wedding anniversary.
19. It can be dangerous when children play football \_\_\_\_\_ the street.

*Answer Key:*

1. *In*
2. *To*
3. *In*
4. *In - at*
5. *To*
6. *At*
7. *At/in*
8. *To*
9. *In*
10. *At*
11. *To - in*
12. *In*
13. *On - on*
14. *At - at*
15. *At*
16. *In*
17. *At*
18. *On*
19. *In*