

## Test Yourself

Try to write in the correct prepositions. Use this tip sheet to check your answers.

### Part 1

The concert will be held \_\_\_\_\_ August.

The dog ran \_\_\_\_\_ the man.

I get to work \_\_\_\_\_ subway.

The sauce was made \_\_\_\_\_ milk.

I went searching \_\_\_\_\_ my glasses.

John jumps \_\_\_\_\_ a basketball player.

I'll see you \_\_\_\_\_ 7:00pm.

### Part 2

I think I should \_\_\_\_\_ *for* my mistake.

The book is \_\_\_\_\_ *on* a true story.

I often \_\_\_\_\_ *about* travelling around the world.

This is Tom and Mary, they \_\_\_\_\_ *in* Mechanical Engineering.

Can you \_\_\_\_\_ *on* your idea to help me understand it more clearly?

How did you \_\_\_\_\_ *to* her accusations that you did not \_\_\_\_\_ *for* your dinner?



If you need more help, make an appointment with us at...

## Student Academic Learning Services

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Email: [sals@durhamcollege.ca](mailto:sals@durhamcollege.ca)

or

visit our front desk in room 204,  
Student Services Building (SSB)

# Student Academic Learning Services

## Prepositions

(in, on, at...)

**For help with prepositions or your answers to these practice questions, please book an appointment with a writing specialist.**

**Prepositions** are very common in English writing. Sometimes they are very small words, like *in, on, at,* and *unlike*; sometimes they are made by combining two or more words like *according to*.

When a preposition is followed by a noun or pronoun, it makes a prepositional phrase:

*in* Durham College

*on* the desk *in* my office

*unlike* most people

*according to* most health care professionals

*without* John

Prepositional phrases show us relationships of meaning, such as **where** or **when** something happened.

Adjectives can be added in between the preposition and noun (or pronoun).

*above* it

*in* a red boat

*among* the best and brightest students

(The second two examples add adjectives to the prepositional phrases.)

When prepositional phrases end in pronouns, they must be in the objective pronoun form:

John will go *with* her and me.

**her** (not she)

**him** (not he)

**us** (not we)

**them** (not they)

**me** (not I)

### Common One-word Prepositions of:

**Place** (in, on, under, over, near, beside...)

*Your book is **on** the table.*

**Direction** (to, toward, into, through...)

*The boy ran **toward** the house.*

**Time** (in, on, at, until, by...)

*We met **at** 4:00pm **on** my birthday **in** August.*

**Agent** (by)

*This meal was made **by** a famous chef.*

**Instrument** (by, with)

*I got the news **by** telephone.*

*She came **by** bus.*

*He unlocked the door **with** a key.*

**Accompaniment** (with)

*I like spaghetti **with** tomato sauce.*

*Mary went to the movies **with** Tom.*

**Purpose** (for)

*He went to the store **for** milk and bread.*

**NOTE:** Never use **for + verb + ing**.

**Example:** He went to the store for buying milk and bread. This is a common error.

**Partition / Possession** (of)

*They painted the front **of** the building blue.*

**Measure** (by, of)

*We buy our olive oil **by** the litre.*

*Please buy a litre **of** milk.*

**Similarity** (like)

*Mary sings **like** a star.*

**Capacity** (as)

*Mary worked **as** a sales clerk until June.*

### Common Verb + Prepositions (Collocations)

#### Verbs + About

argue about / be concerned about / be confused about / decide about / dream about / worried about

#### Verbs + Against

be against (He **is against** war) / discriminate against / protest against

#### Verbs + For

account for / apologize for / care for / pay for

#### Verbs + From

benefit from / come from / differ from / result from / suffer from

#### Verbs + In

be interested in / be involved in / result in / specialize in / succeed in

#### Verbs + Of

be accused of / be convicted of / be reminded of / be suspected of

#### Verbs + On

based on / concentrate on / decide on / depend on / elaborate on / insist on

#### Verbs + To

apply to / attributed to / be committed to / prefer to / react to / refer to / related to / respond to

#### Verbs + With

be acquainted with / be faced with / collide with / comply with / deal with / meet with