

# Help Centres – English Support



## Using Prepositions

- **Prepositions** are words that link nouns, pronouns or phrases to other words in a sentence.
- They are used to express position and movement, possession, time, and how an action is completed.

Here are rules for three common types of prepositions:

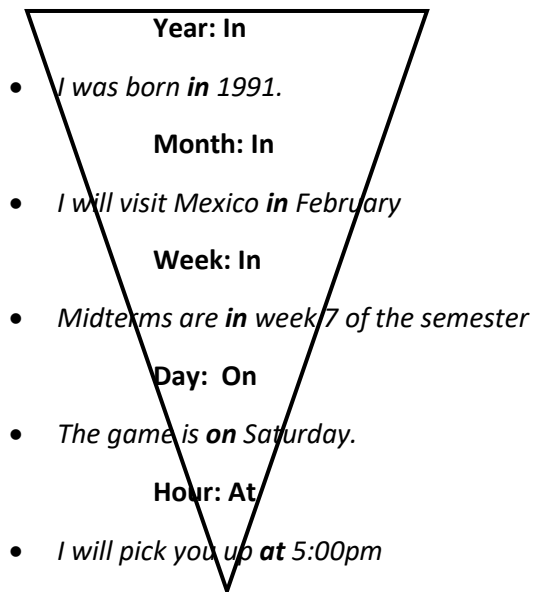
### 1. Prepositions of Place: *At, In, On*

At	Located at a specific place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Josh goes to school <b>at</b> Camosun College</li><li>• I left my homework <b>at</b> home.</li><li>• I will meet you <b>at</b> the mall tonight.</li></ul>
In	Located within walls or boundaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We are studying <b>in</b> the Help Centre.</li><li>• We live <b>in</b> Victoria, BC.</li><li>• The food is <b>in</b> the jar <b>in</b> the fridge.</li></ul>
On	Located on a surface <i>*also used for street locations</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• I left the book <b>on</b> your desk.</li><li>• There is a clock <b>on</b> the wall.</li><li>• I live <b>on</b> Park Street.</li></ul>

### 2. Prepositions of Movement: *To, Into, Onto*

To	Moving toward a specific place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We are moving <b>to</b> Vancouver next month.</li><li>• She walks <b>to</b> school everyday.</li><li>• I am going <b>to</b> bed now.</li></ul>
Into/In	Moving to the inside of an enclosed space	<p><b>“In” or “Into” can be used when it refers to the action of movement.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The dog jumped <b>into/in</b> the pond.</li><li>• I poured water <b>into/in</b> my cup.</li><li>• We went <b>into/in</b> the room.</li></ul>
Onto/On	Moving toward a surface	<p><b>“On” or “Onto” can be used when it refers to the action of movement.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The book fell <b>onto/on</b> the floor.</li><li>• She threw the papers <b>onto/on</b> the desk.</li></ul>

### 3. Prepositions of Time: *In, On, At*



#### Common prepositions:

about	before	considering	like	past	toward
above	behind	despite	near	plus	under
across	below	down	next	regarding	underneath
after	beneath	during	of	respecting	unlike
against	beside	except	off	round	until
along	between	for	on	since	up
among	beyond	from	onto	through	upon
around	but	in	out	throughout	with
as	by	inside	outside	till	within
at	concerning	into	over	to	without

#### **Practice writing answers to the following questions using *in, on, at*:**

1. When were you born?
2. Do you know what time you were born?
3. When is your birthday? What city do you live in?
4. What time do you wake up during the week?
5. What time do you wake up on the weekends?
6. What time do you go to bed? Where is your school? Where is your house?
7. Where is your bank?
8. When do you eat lunch?
9. When do you eat dinner?
10. Where do you eat your meals?
11. Where do you like to study?
12. In what months are the important holidays in your country?