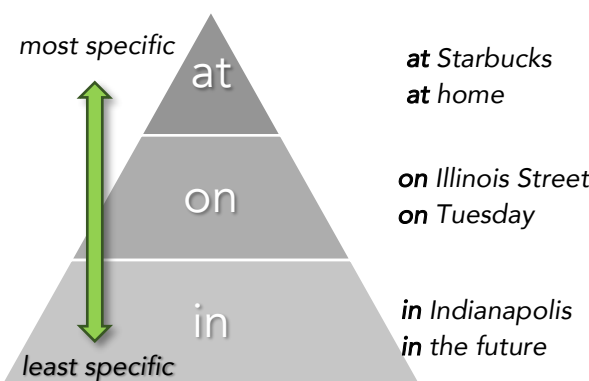



Prepositions

Prepositions show relationships between people, time, objects, and locations. They can be used to express positions, movement, possession, time, and how an action happens.

TIME		LOCATION	DIRECTION	SPACIAL		
At	On	At	In	Above	Below	Near
By	Since	In	Into	Across	Beside	Next to
During	Until	On	On	Ahead	By	Out of
For	Within		Onto	Along	From	Over
In			To	Around	In front of	Through
				Behind	Inside	Under
Ex: My cat eats dinner at 4pm.		Ex: My cat eats dinner in her room.	Ex: My cat goes into her room for dinner.	Ex: My cat eats dinner behind the door and under the table.		

TIME AND LOCATION TIPS	DIRECTION AND SPACIAL TIPS
<p>The preposition at is used with “small”, on with “medium”, and in with “big” places and times. For example:</p>  <p>at Starbucks at home</p> <p>on Illinois Street on Tuesday</p> <p>in Indianapolis in the future</p>	<p>These prepositions show anywhere a cat can go! The images below illustrate how spacial and directional prepositions show relationships between objects.</p> 

Not sure which preposition to use? Here are four helpful resources to discover the best option:



Search a prepositional phrase in Google. If most results match, your preposition choice is likely correct. If not, Google will likely suggest an alternative preposition.



Dictionaries identify combinations of prepositions with adjectives/nouns/verbs. Ex: in the Oxford Learner’s Dictionary, the verb **approve** reveals that it is followed by the preposition **of**.



A collocation dictionary (e.g. <http://www.ozdic.com/>) shows some common words (including prepositions) that follow a particular word.



On **Netspeak** (<http://www.netspeak.org/>), you can enter a phrase and **substitute the preposition with (?)** to show the most common preposition used with the phrase.

Adapted from: *The Writing Center. (2018). Prepositions. George Mason University.*