



Basic Prepositional Phrases

Prepositional phrases are made up of at least two parts; a preposition then a complement. The complement is typically another noun, a gerund verb or a clause. Modifiers can then also be added to expand the phrase. There is often no logic to which preposition is used in each of these phrases, therefore, we have to learn the correct structure off-by-heart.

Let's take a look at some of the most common basic prepositional phrases in English.

At

At a guess	At a guess, I'd say this phone costs about €300.
At fault	The driver was at fault for the accident.
At last	We got home at last after a long journey.
At once	Come here at once, please.
At risk	Many animals are at risk of extinction.
At the moment	I'm busy at the moment, can I call you later?
At the same time as	She arrived at the same time as me.
At war	The two countries have been at war for years.

By

By accident	He broke the glass by accident.
By all accounts	By all accounts, he's a very good teacher.
By chance	We met by chance at the airport.
By far	This is by far the best restaurant in town.
By heart	She knows the poem by heart.
By mistake	I took your bag by mistake.
By surprise	The news took me by surprise.
By the way	By the way, did you finish the report?

For

For a change	Let's eat outside for a change.
For ages	I haven't seen you for ages!
For example	Some fruits, for example, bananas, are high in potassium.
For fun	They play football for fun, not for money.
For instance	You can try different sports, for instance, tennis or swimming.
For the sake of	He did it for the sake of his children.
For the time being	You can stay here for the time being.

From

From experience	I know from experience that this method works.
From memory	He recited the whole speech from memory.
From now on	From now on, I'll be more careful.
From time to time	We go hiking from time to time.

In

In a hurry	She left in a hurry.
In advance	Please book your tickets in advance.
In case	Take an umbrella in case it rains.
In charge of	She is in charge of the marketing team.
In common	They have a lot in common.
In conclusion	In conclusion, the project was a success.
In contact with	I'm still in contact with my old teacher.
In danger	The climbers were in danger during the storm.
In detail	She explained the process in detail.
In fact	I thought it would be hard; in fact, it was easy.
In favour of	Most people are in favour of the new law.
In full	The bill must be paid in full.
In future	In future, please arrive on time.
In general	In general, people eat more fruit in summer.
In my opinion	In my opinion, this film is boring.
In other words	He's lazy; in other words, he doesn't like to work.
In practice	The plan looks good, but in practice it's difficult.
In public	He doesn't like speaking in public.
In short	In short, we need more time.
In spite of	In spite of the rain, we went for a walk.
In the news	That story was in the news yesterday.
In trouble	He is in trouble with the police.

In person	You need to sign the form in person.
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On

On average	On average, children watch two hours of TV a day.
On behalf of	I'm speaking on behalf of my company.
On holiday	She's on holiday in Spain.
On purpose	He broke it on purpose, not by accident.
On the phone	Sorry, I was on the phone.

Out

Out of danger	The patient is now out of danger.
Out of fashion	Those shoes are out of fashion.
Out of order	The lift is out of order.
Out of use	This machine is out of use.

Under

Under control	The fire is now under control.
Under pressure	He works well under pressure.
Under repair	The bridge is under repair.

Without

Without delay	The police acted without delay.
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