

Useful Prepositions Cheat Sheet.

At. Use to express

examples

An exact point in time	The train left at midnight
An exact position or place	I'll meet you at the corner of the street
With the name of a city, town or village (if we are interested in a particular point or activity in it rather than the whole place)	The train stops at Birmingham I studied at London
'in the direction of'	Look at this new car. Aim at the centre.

Useful expressions

at all costs	at home / at the office	at peace / war	be astonished /surprised / shocked at
at any rate	at last	at sea	be good/bad at
at church	at least	at a time (when)	be clever at
at Christmas / Easter	at a loss / a profit	at the moment / present	shoot at
at ease	at breakfast / lunch etc.	at that time	shout at
at first	at night	at times	smile at
at first sight	at once	at the weekend	at this point / stage / juncture
at hand / my fingertips)	at any price	at work	at short notice

By. Use to express

examples

Who does/did/will do etc an action	This book was written by Charles Dickens
How something is/was/will be done	The model was made by hand.
Closeness or nearness to	The bank is just by the post office
Not later than	By next year I'll have finished this book

Useful expressions.

by accident	by day/night	by sight	be astonished by/at
by air/bus/car	by far	by surprise	be impressed by
by all means	by mistake	by yourself	be surprised by /at
by chance	by post	be amazed by/at	be upset by

For. Use to express

examples

Intended to/belong to	This is for you
Length of time	We've lived here for three years
Distance	We walked for several miles
In favour of	Are you for or against nuclear weapons?
Reason	What did you do that for ?
Purpose (+noun)	Let's go out for a meal
Movement towards	They left for America

Useful expressions

for ever	for a while/time	apply for	vote for
for goodness sake	for the time being	care for	be anxious for
for heaven's sake	as for	pay for	be famous for
once at for all	ask for	search / look for	be responsible for

From. Use to express

examples

Place of origin	We travelled from Vienna to Paris by train.
A starting point in time	He works from 9 till 5.
A starting point in quality	Prices start from €5.
separation	I can't tell one from the other.

Useful expressions.

from A to Z	from morning to night	apart from	suffer from
from beginning to end	from time to time	hear from	recover from
from the outset/get go	away from	prevent from	translate from into

In. Use to express

examples

Place	They're in the kitchen
A point during a longer period of time – weeks etc.	We got married in March/winter/1995
'within a certain time'	I'll be back in an hour
A job/profession/situation	He's in banking/the police/ a mess

Useful expressions

in all	in a hurry	in secret	in terms of
in any case	in pencil/ink	in sight	in concrete terms
in bed	in love	in spite of	in conclusion
in common	in a loud voice	in stock	in favour of
in danger	in the morning etc.	in tears	in the long term/run
in debt	in my opinion/view	in time	in one's own interest
in difficulties	in other words	in turn	In view of
in the end	in particular	in a way	In theory
in fact	in prison	in a sense	be in agreement on
in general	in private	in addition to	be in charge of
in half	in public	in certain circumstances	be in favour of
in exchange for	in due course	in some respects	be interested
in conjunction with	in lieu of	in this respect	participate in /

			take part in
in principle	in all probability	in response to	

Of. Use to express

examples

Belonging to	The cover of this book is attractive
From among	He's one of my best friends
Measure	A ton bricks A pint of milk A pound butter
Cause	He died of starvation
description	A man of 40 / the city of London / made of gold

Useful expressions

ahead of	example of	on behalf of	several of
because of	explanation of	out of	think of
of note	hundreds of	accuse sb of	be typical of
cure sb of	in case of	be aware of	be jealous of
die of	in front of	be afraid of	be tired of
dozens of	instead of	approve of	be suspicious of
enough of	lack of	be proof of	
everyone of	on account of	remind sb of	

On. Use to express

examples

Contact (on the surface of)	The book is on the table
Time- particular day	See you on Saturday morning /Christmas Day
What entertainment is being offered	What's on TV tonight?

	There's a good film on at the cinema.
What something is about	He's written a book on insects.

Useful expressions

on business	on holiday	on the whole	congratulate sb on
on duty	on purpose	on this subject	decide on sth
on time	on sale	on schedule	depend on
on foot	on the basis of	on the spot	have an effect on
on the one hand ... on the other (hand)	on the contrary	be on good terms with sb	insist on
on the agenda	on the safe side	agree (with sb) on	

To. Use to express

examples

In the direction of	We're going to Paris
Before (in time)	It's a quarter to 12
Until	We'll be in the office from 5 to 6
Comparison	He won by 2 games to 3 I prefer sleeping to working

Useful expressions

according to	in order to	apologise to sb	belong to
due to	to some extent	be addicted to	be married to
owing to	to my knowledge	be allergic to	be similar to

With / without. Use to express:

examples.

As regards	Be patient with the children.
Instrument	He hit the burglar with a hammer.
Accompanying / not accompany	You'll have to go with / without me.

Having / not having	A room with / without a view.
---------------------	--------------------------------------

Useful expressions

with best wishes / regards	with pleasure	be filled with	be disgusted with
with / without difficulty	with regard to	have difficulty with sth	be impressed with
without any fuss	agree with sb	be angry with sb	be pleased with
with love	do with(out) sth	be happy /content with sth	

Here is a short list of other common prepositional phrases.

ahead of schedule	off the record	under consideration	under the impression
behind schedule	out of the question	under discussion	under pressure
beside the point	under no circumstances	under no illusions	