ESOL – Prepositions of place

This companion document covers the same learning as the interactive session, but in a different way so as to be more accessible for learners with sight impairments. Because of this, it does not follow a slide structure.

Welcome

Welcome to this session on prepositions of place.

By the end of this session, you will be able to use the following prepositions of place:

* On
* Above
* Beneath
* Next to
* Opposite
* By
* Between
* In front of
* Behind

What is a prepositions of place?

A **preposition** is a word that tells you **where** or **when** something is in relation to something else.

A **preposition of place** tells us **where** things happen.

For example:

*The dog sat* ***on*** *the carpet.*

In this sentence, the preposition ‘on’ tells us where the dog is sitting.

There are many prepositions of place. In this session, we will learn about these prepositions: on, above, beneath, next to, opposite, by, between, in front of, behind.

The preposition ‘on’

We use the preposition ‘on’ for when something is on a surface.

For example:

If you hang a mirror, you would say “the mirror is on the wall”.

If you place your wallet on a table, you would say “my walled is on the table”.

The preposition ‘beneath’

We use the preposition ‘beneath’ for when something is under something.

For example:

If you place your phone on a book, you could say “the book is beneath your phone”.

If you find a letter underneath a newspaper, you could say “the letter was beneath the newspaper”.

The preposition ‘Above’

We use the preposition ‘above’ for when something is higher than something else.

For example, you could say:

“The clouds float above the sky”.

“Do you live in the flat above me?”

The preposition ‘Next to’

We use the preposition ‘next to’ to show a person or thing is at the side of someone or something.

For example:

“The lady sat next to the pool”.

“The hotel is next to the train station”.

The preposition ‘Opposite’

We use the preposition ‘opposite’ to show a person or thing is facing someone or something but on the other side.

For example:

My therapist sits opposite me.

I sat opposite Maya at dinner.

The preposition ‘By’

We use the preposition ‘by’ to show a person or thing is near or at the side of something.

For example:

The telephone is by the bookcase.

Tom is relaxing by the pool.

The preposition ‘In front of’

We use the preposition ‘in front of’ to show something is farther forward than someone or something else.

For example:

There is a tree in front of my house.

Put the plant in front of the shelves.

The preposition ‘Behind’

We use the preposition ‘behind’ to show something is at or towards the back of a thing or person.

For example:

I put the empty cardboard boxesbehind the bin.

She hid the present behind her back.

The preposition ‘Between’

We use the preposition ‘between’ to show something is in the space that separates two things, objects or places.

For example:

There is a stream between your house and mine.

There is a fence between the path and the lake.

Knowledge check

Below are a few questions to test what you have learned.

**Question 1:**

Which preposition would you use in this sentence?

“Meet me in the square [blank] the theatre and the town hall.”

The sentence should read: “Meet me in the square between the theatre and the town hall.”

**Question 2:**

Which preposition would you use in this sentence?

“Please hang the picture [blank] the table.”

The sentence should read: “Please hang the picture [above] the table.”

**Question 3:**

Which preposition would you use in this sentence?

“I’ve left the spare key [blank] the doormat.”

The sentence should read: “I’ve left the spare key beneath the doormat.”

Summary

Well done. You have completed this session on prepositions of place.

You should now be able to use the following prepositions of place:

* On
* Above
* Beneath
* Next to
* Opposite
* By
* Between
* In front of
* Behind

If you have any questions about anything covered in this session, please speak to your tutor for more help.