

Year 3 and 4 Grammar: Prepositions

Learning From Home Activity Booklet

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Children should be introduced to expressing time, place and cause using prepositions [for example, before, after, during, in, because of].	Sort It! Sort It!	2	
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Sort it! Sort it!

Prepositions have three functions; they are words or phrases that describe **place**, **time** or **cause**.
For example:

The book is **on** the table.

Place: 'on' describes where the book is.

It went dark **after** the sun set.

Time: 'after' describes when the sun set.

Harry was late **due to** the traffic.

Cause: 'due to' describes why he was late.

Look at the prepositions in the box below. Sort them into the table based on their purpose: place, time or cause.

adjacent to	on	because of	on Thursday
beside	due to	after	thanks to
at the weekend	before	in between	across
under	following	owing to	since

Place	Time	Cause

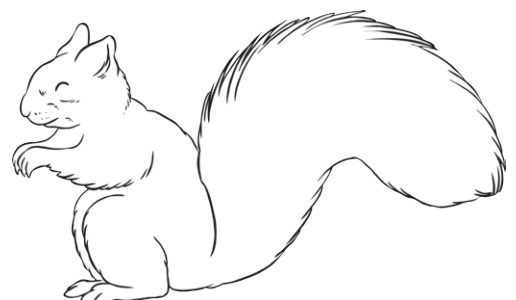
Find the Preposition

In each of the sentences below, underline the word that is the preposition. Then try and identify if the preposition shows **time**, **place** or **cause** by writing each one of these words in the box provided. The first one has been done for you.

1. The squirrel sat on the branch.
2. After football training, I went home.
3. The tennis match was cancelled due to the bad weather.
4. There was a celebration in honour of the Queen.
5. At 12 o'clock, the children have their lunch.
6. The car was parked opposite the shop.
7. There was a fire drill during our English lesson.
8. Since yesterday, I have felt very ill.
9. The dog stood between his owners.

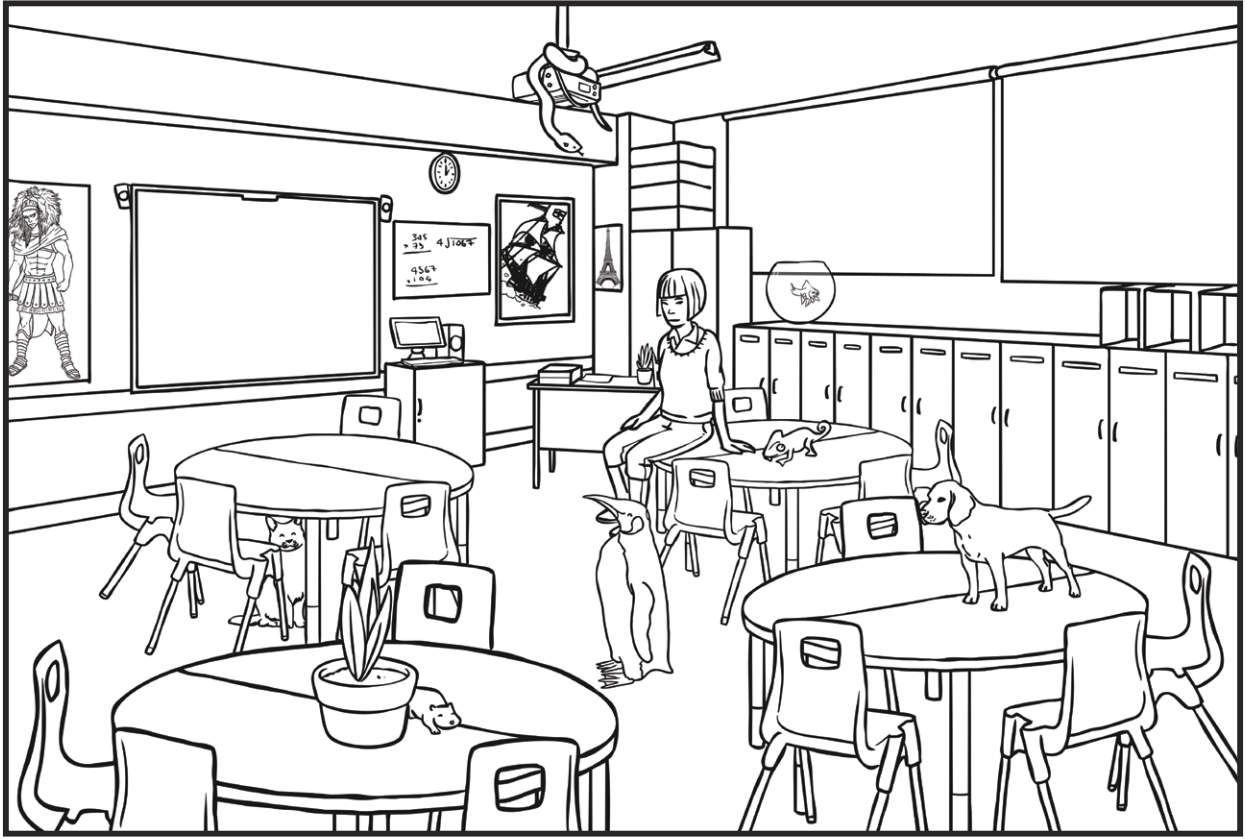
Place

Challenge: Use a preposition from the previous sheet and write a sentence with that preposition. You must explain if it is a preposition for time, place or cause.



The Pets Have Escaped!

Prepositions to Show Place



Oh no! The pets have escaped from the pet shop. Find them in the classroom and write a sentence with a preposition to describe the place they are hiding. The first one has been done for you.

1. dog: The dog is on the table.
2. cat: _____
3. penguin: _____
4. chameleon: _____
5. hamster: _____
6. fish: _____
7. snake: _____

Now circle the preposition in each sentence.

When Did It Happen?

Prepositions to Show Time

Use the prepositions in the box to complete the sentences below.

in December	last summer	3 o'clock	during
after	before	every morning	

1. _____ , I go swimming to keep fit and healthy.
2. Daniel goes to breakfast club _____ school.
3. Lucy's birthday is _____ .
4. _____ , I went on holiday to Spain.
5. You have a dentist appointment at _____ .
6. Dad ate popcorn _____ the film.
7. _____ dinner, we had a delicious dessert.

Challenge: Now, write two sentences of your own each containing a preposition to show time.

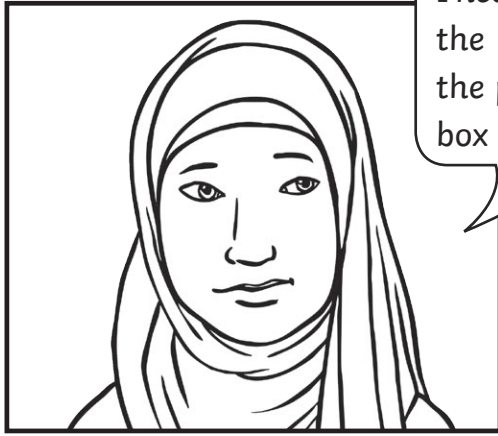
1. _____

2. _____



Help!

Prepositions to Show Cause



I need your help! Please complete the sentences below by using the prepositions for cause in the box provided.

thanks to

due to

because of

in honour of

1. They held a party _____ the Queen's birthday.
2. The school fair went really well _____ from the parents.
3. The cricket match was cancelled _____ a change in the weather.
4. _____ the support of all the sponsors, the church raised enough money to fix the roof.
5. _____ his hard work, he was presented with a special award.

Challenge: Write three of your own sentences using the prepositional phrases from the box above.

A Prepositional Start

You may have noticed that prepositional phrases can be used as a great way to start sentences. They are a type of 'fronted adverbial'. When you start a sentence with a prepositional phrase, it needs to be separated from the main part of the sentence (the main clause) with a comma. In the example below, the prepositional phrase has been placed at the start of the sentence.

'Somebody was loudly talking during the movie.'

becomes

'During the movie, somebody was loudly talking.'

Add a prepositional phrase from the box to each of the sentences below. Remember to add the comma too.

After the race	Between the trees
Due to the bad weather	Underneath the stairs

1. _____ mum stored the vacuum cleaner.
2. _____ Sam received a gold medal for coming first.
3. _____ sports day had to be cancelled.
4. _____ there stood a jaguar stalking its prey.

Challenge: Look at the sentences below. Try and think of your own prepositional phrase to start each sentence with and write it on the space provided.

1. _____ a bird sat singing.
2. _____ Sarah was doing her school work.
3. _____ they had a special party.

An Autumnal Scene

Using Prepositions in Descriptive Writing



Using the picture above, write a description of this autumnal scene. In your description, you should use prepositional phrases to describe **place**, **time** and **cause**. For example:

One morning, Michelle and Pedro went to play conkers in the park.

Use the prepositions and prepositional phrases in the word bank below (and ideas of your own) to help you think of sentences for your description. Use the next page to write your Autumn description.

early one morning

because of

in the tree

after

on a branch

on the ground

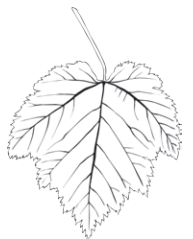
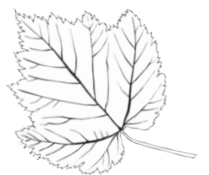
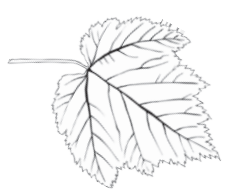
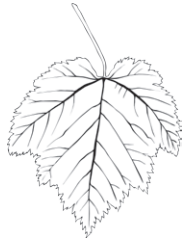
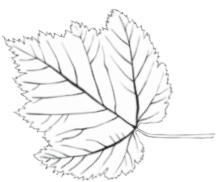
due to

up in the sky

adjacent to

An Autumnal Scene

Using Prepositions in Descriptive Writing



Twelve sets of horizontal lines for writing, arranged in two columns of six lines each, intended for descriptive writing practice.

A Parent's Guide to Prepositions and Prepositional Phrases

In Year 3, your child will be introduced to the term **preposition** and **prepositional phrase** and begin to use them in their writing. In Year 4, children will continue to refine and develop their use of prepositions and prepositional phrases until they can accurately identify and use them in their own writing. Please use this guide to support your child when completing the activities in this booklet. The terminology used has been taken from the National Curriculum. It is a statutory requirement that children in Year 3 and 4 learn these terms.

Prepositions:	We use prepositions to explain where things are in time or space. Prepositions tell us where something is (for example, beside, under, on, against, beneath or over) or when something is happening (for example: until, during, after, before or more specifically 'on Christmas Day', 'at twelve o'clock' or 'in August').
Prepositional Phrase:	A prepositional phrase is a group of words that start with a preposition and explain the time or place that something happened. Also, they can explain cause. For example, from my grandmother On New Year's Day, Due to the weather,
A note on adverbial phrases:	Your child may ask, 'What is the difference between an adverbial phrase and a prepositional phrase ?' Most adverbial phrases are prepositional phrases functioning as an adverb. However, there are some prepositional phrases that function as an adjectival phrase and not an adverb. For example; 'I spoke to the lady in the pink blouse.' 'In the pink blouse,' is a prepositional phrase functioning as an adjectival phrase as it describes the noun 'lady'.

Year 3 and 4 Grammar: Prepositions **Answers**

Sort it! Sort it!

1. Look at the prepositions in the box below. Sort them into the table based on their purpose: **place**, **time** or **cause**.

Place: under, on, beside, adjacent to, in between, across.

Time: before, after, following, on Thursday, at the weekend, since.

Cause: thanks to, due to, because of, owing to.

Find the Preposition

In each of the sentences below, underline the word that is the preposition. Then try and identify if the preposition shows time, place or cause by writing each one of these words in the box provided. The first one has been done for you.

- | | |
|--|--------------|
| 1. The squirrel sat <u>on</u> the branch. | Place |
| 2. <u>After</u> football training, I went home. | Time |
| 3. The tennis match was cancelled <u>due to</u> the bad weather. | Cause |
| 4. There was a celebration <u>in honour of</u> the Queen. | Cause |
| 5. <u>At 12 o'clock</u> , the children have their lunch. | Time |
| 6. The car was parked <u>opposite</u> the shop. | Place |
| 7. There was a fire drill <u>during</u> our English lesson. | Time |
| 8. <u>Since yesterday</u> , I have felt very ill. | Time |
| 9. The dog stood <u>between</u> his owners. | Place |

Challenge: Use a preposition from the previous sheet and write a sentence with that preposition. You must explain if it is a preposition for time, place or cause.

Accept any sentence that is grammatically correct that includes a preposition. Check if they have correctly identified what type of preposition it is.

The Pets Have Escaped!

Oh no! The pets have escaped from the pet shop. Find them in the classroom and write a sentence with a preposition to describe the place they are hiding. The first one has been done for you.

Accept any grammatically correct sentences with prepositions of place circled.

Year 3 and 4 Grammar: Prepositions **Answers**

When Did It Happen?

Use the prepositions in the box to complete the sentences below.

1. **Every morning**, I go swimming to keep fit and healthy.
2. Daniel goes to breakfast club before school.
3. Lucy's birthday is **in December**.
4. **Last summer**, I went on holiday to Spain.
5. You have a dentist appointment at **3 o'clock**.
6. Dad ate popcorn during the film.
7. **After** dinner, we had a delicious dessert.

Challenge: Now, write two sentences of your own each containing a preposition to show time.

Please accept any grammatically correct sentences that contain prepositions to show time.

Help!

Please complete the sentences below by using the prepositions for cause in the box provided.

1. They held a party **in honour of** the Queen's birthday.
2. The school fair went really well **because of** all the support from the parents.
3. The cricket match was cancelled **due to** a change in the weather.
4. **Thanks to** the support of all the sponsors, the church raised enough money to fix the roof.
5. **In honour of** his hard work, he was presented with a special award.

Challenge: Write three of your own sentences using the prepositional phrases from the box above.

Please accept any grammatically correct use of prepositional phrases, e.g.

The cricket match was cancelled because of a change in the weather.

Year 3 and 4 Grammar: Prepositions **Answers**

A Prepositional Start

Add a prepositional phrase from the box to each for the sentences below. Remember to add the comma too.

1. Underneath the stairs, mum stored the vacuum cleaner.
2. After the race, Sam received a gold medal for coming first.
3. Due to the bad weather, sports day had to be cancelled.
4. Between the trees, there stood a jaguar stalking its prey.

Challenge: Look at the sentences below. Try and think of your own prepositional phrase to start each sentence with and write it on the space provided.

Accept any sensible prepositional phrases followed by commas.

An Autumnal Scene

Using the picture above, write a description of this autumnal scene. In your description, you should use prepositional phrases to describe place, time and cause.

Please check that your child has used a variety of prepositions and prepositional phrases in the description of the autumnal scene such as 'the leaves were changing colour due to the colder weather'. You should also check that they have included capital letters for proper nouns and full stops at the end of their sentences.