Lesson #4

Time & Location

Prepositions

Lesson Plan by Catherine Schell
Social Situations using the verb “to be”

**WARM-UP:**

Look at this poem:

In a envelope,
It goes from me to you,
Through the air
Above the clouds,
Down the road,
In your mailbox,
And you take it
In your hands;
Out of sight but
Not out of mind.

What is ‘it’ (line 2)? What are the last two lines?
‘It’ is the envelope. The last two lines refer to a well-known proverb in English, ‘Out of sight, out of mind’.

Watch the following video, a song on prepositions
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hx8i-Wq_jtc
Coming to the USA
When you come to the USA, you get out of the plane, you walk down a corridor, and you arrive in a big room. You stand in line with other people, and you wait for you turn. When the officer in the booth is available, you walk to the booth, and you show your passport. If you are a visitor, you need a visitor visa. If you are a student, you need a student visa. There are a few steps to the entry process. First, you put your fingers on the scanner. Then, you look at a camera and they take a picture of you. At the end, the officer puts a stamp on your passport, and you can walk away. If your luggage is at the baggage claim, you take your luggage and walk toward the customs officer. When you clear the customs, you walk out of the gates and you are officially in the USA!

Morning routine
In the morning, my alarm is set for 7am. When it rings, I hit the ‘snooze’ button. I usually get up at 7:15am. I turn on the coffee maker, and jump in the shower. When I get out of the shower, I go back into my room and put on a suit. When I am dressed, I pour coffee into a travel mug, I put some milk in it, and I am ready for work! I go out of my apartment, I go across the street, and I wait for the bus by the bus sign. I like going to work by bus, because it is very practical and easy to use.

Work on the Texts
1. Which are the most common prepositions in these texts? How do they change – if they do – the meaning of the original verb?

2. Which verbs in these texts can be used without a preposition? Give examples.
LESSON

Prepositions
Prepositions show a specific relationship (spatial, temporal, etc.) between people, things or concepts. Some have specific meaning (under, above, etc.), while others may have multiple meanings depending on the verb they are associated with (in, to, at, etc.).

One mouse hides in the box.
Another mouse hides behind the box.

The cat sits on the box.
The cat can search around the box.
The cat can jump over the box.
The other mouse can run into the box.

The slice of cheese is next to the box.
Is the cat between the cheese and the box?

Prepositions answer questions such as where? when? and how?

Examples:
- One mouse is in the milk box. The other mouse is behind the box. (Where are they?)
- Anne is coming to the party by bus (How is she coming?)
- Vivian leaves the office at 5:00 pm. (When does she leave work?)

Here is a list of the most common prepositions in English:

about  along  above  among  across  around  after  at  against  by
before behind below between beneath despite down during to[ward]
for from in[to] near of off up[on] out over through
Exercises

1. Give the opposite preposition:
in / ____________________________
under / ____________________________
in front of / ____________________________
up / ____________________________
off / ____________________________

2. Giving and getting directions:
Real life scenario: getting lost on campus / in a city.
You meet someone who is lost in a place that you know very well. With a partner, imagine a conversation in which you direct them to their destination.

3. Moving in:
You go to NYC to study English. Your friend is helping you move in and you tell him/her to put each thing in the right place.
Example: I want the couch near the window and the table in the middle of the room.

3. Group activity:
Teacher divides class into teams. A team member from each group is given the same amount of time to draw a picture, starting with the first description. Team members will rotate until each person has added to the picture. Other students may give directions.

There is a table in the center of a room.
A chair is next to the table and under a painting on the wall.
There is a window behind the table.
There is a cat below the table. Next to the cat is a bowl of milk.
There is an open book on top of the table.
There is a large flower pot to the left of the table.
There is a mouse behind the flower pot.
There are five large sunflowers in the flower pot.
Wind-down

Fill in the blanks of this song by Bob Dylan, “Chimes of Freedom”:

Far ________ sundown’s finish and midnight’s broken toll  
We ducked ________ the doorway, thunder crashing  
As majestic bells of bolts struck shadows in the sounds  
Seeming to be the chimes of freedom flashing  
Flashling for the warriors whose strength is not to fight  
Flashling for the refugees ________ the unarmed road of flight  
And for each and every underdog soldier ________ the night  
And we gazed ________ the chimes of freedom flashing  

In the city’s melted furnance, unexpectedly we watched  
________ faces hidden while the walls were tightening  
As the echo of the wedding bells ________ the blowing rain  
Dissolved ________ the bells of the lightning  
Tolling for the rebel, tolling for the rake  
Tolling for the luckless, the abandoned and forsaked  
Tolling for the outcast, burning constantly at stake  
And we gazed ________ the chimes of freedom flashing  

________ the mad mystic hammering of the wild ripping hail  
The sky cracked its poems in naked wonder  
That the clinging of the church bells blew far ________ the breeze  
Leaving only bells of lightning and its thunder  
Striking for the gentle, striking for the kind  
Striking for the guardians and protectors of the mind  
And the unpawned painter behind beyond his rightful time  
And we gazed ________ the chimes of freedom flashing  

________ the wild cathedral evening the rain unraveled tales  
For the disrobed faceless forms of no position  
Tolling for the tongues with no place to bring their thoughts  
All down in taken-for-granted situations  
Tolling for the deaf and blind, tolling for the mute  
Tolling for the mistreated, mateless mother, the mistitled prostitute  
For the misdemeanor outlaw, chased and cheated ________ pursuit  
And we gazed ________ the chimes of freedom flashing  

Wind-down (cont.)

Even though a cloud’s white curtain in a far-off corner flashed
And the hypnotic splattered mist was slowly lifting
Electric light still struck like arrows, fired but for the ones
Condemned to drift or else be kept ________ drifting
Tolling for the searching ones, on their speechless, seeking trail
For the lonesome-hearted lovers with too personal a tale
And for each unharmed, gentle soul misplaced ________ a jail
And we gazed ________ the chimes of freedom flashing

Starry-eyed and laughing as I recall when we were caught
Trapped by no track of hours for they hanged suspended
As we listened one last time and we watched with one last look
Spellbound and swallowed till the tolling ended
Tolling for the aching ones whose wounds cannot be nursed
For the countless confused, accused, misused, strung-out ones and worse
And for every hung-up person ________ the whole wide universe
And we gazed ________ the chimes of freedom flashing

For more tips on how to prepare a trip to the USA, see:

Read this article on Vermont from VOA Special English Learning Program:

Poem: Dr. Gérard Beck
Videos: courtesy of http://youtube.com
Photos and Sketches: Catherine Schell, Dr. Gérard Beck