

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



Social Situations using the verb “to be”

TEXTS

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 your 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?

In(to), to, for, at, out of, on, for, etc.

‘To get’ = to receive, to take. ‘To get out of’ = to exit

‘to walk’ = to move using your feet. ‘To walk away’ = to move in an opposite direction from a specific person, thing or place.

etc.

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

To get, to turn, to walk, to wait, etc.



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?

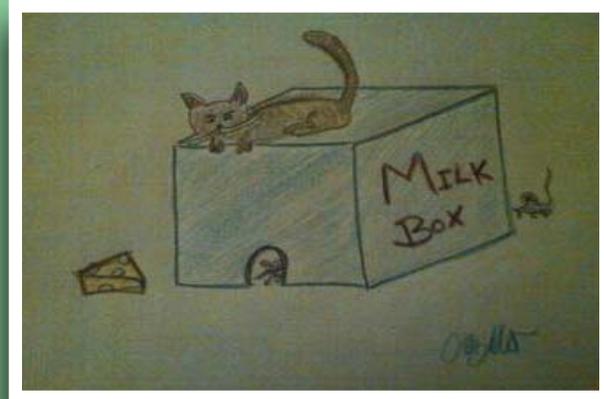
Prepositions answer questions such as where?
when? and how?

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



Exercises

1. Give the opposite preposition:

in / out

under / above

in front of / behind

up / down

off / on

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.

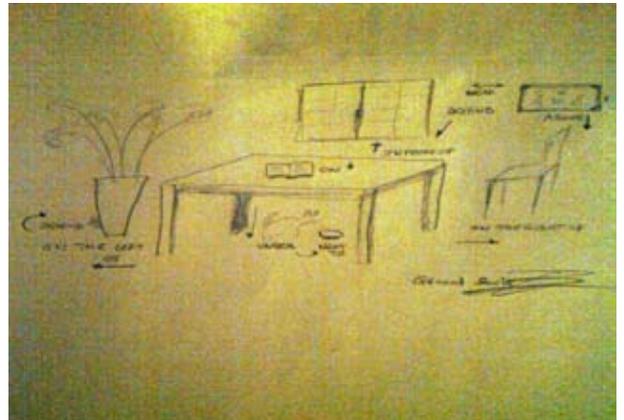
There is a cat below the table. Next to the cat is a bowl of milk.

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.



The goal of this activity is to practice using prepositions. In case students are having difficulties, give hints!



Wind-down

The goal of this activity is to practice using prepositions. In case students are having difficulties, give hints!

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

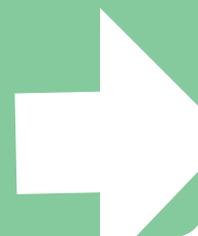
Far between sundown's finish and midnight's broken toll
We ducked inside the doorway, thunder crashing
As majestic bells of bolts struck shadows in the sounds
Seeming to be the chimes of freedom flashing
Flashing for the warriors whose strength is not to fight
Flashing for the refugees on the unarmed road of flight
And for each and every underdog soldier in the night
And we gazed upon the chimes of freedom flashing
In the city's melted furnace, unexpectedly we watched

With faces hidden while the walls were tightening
As the echo of the wedding bells before the blowing rain
Dissolved into the bells of the lightning
Tolling for the rebel, tolling for the rake
Tolling for the luckless, the abandoned and forsaken
Tolling for the outcast, burning constantly at stake
And we gazed upon the chimes of freedom flashing
Through 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 into 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 upon the chimes of freedom flashing
Through 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



Wind-down (cont.)

For the misdemeanor outlaw, chased and cheated by pursuit
And we gazed upon the chimes of freedom flashing
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 from 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 inside a jail
And we gazed upon 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 in the whole wide universe
And we gazed upon the chimes of freedom flashing



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

<http://blogs.voanews.com/student-union/2010/09/29/advice-arriving-in-the-u-s/#more-444>

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

<http://www.voanews.com/learningenglish/home/Vermont-Farmland-Green-Mountains-105685178.html>

Poem: Dr. Gérard Beck

Videos: courtesy of <http://youtube.com>

Photos and Sketches: Catherine Schell, Dr. Gérard Beck



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