

A **preposition** is a word placed in front of a **noun** or **pronoun** to show how one person or thing relates to another.

a class *of* students

a cake *with* icing

I walked *across* the road.

John lives *in* Liverpool.

Mum's birthday is *on* the 15th of June.

The school holidays are *from* July *to* August.

The building will be finished *within* a month.

Grandad stayed *for* a month.

I have been waiting *since* five o'clock.



Can you pick out the prepositions in this sentence?

After dinner I felt ill, so I climbed up the stairs and went to bed for two hours – from seven o'clock until nine o'clock.

Using prepositions

If a preposition is followed by a pronoun, the pronoun is always in its object form, that is, **me**, **him**, **her**, **them** or **whom**.

He came *with* John and *me*.

They walked *past* *him*.

Chris is the friend *with* *whom* I went fishing.

In Standard English, it is important to use the correct preposition for what you mean:

✘ I went *in* the house.

✓ I went *into* the house.



Sometimes it is not necessary to use a preposition:

- ✗ Where are you going to?
- ✓ Where are you going?



Can you rewrite these sentences correctly?

1. Which school do you attend at?
2. My pen fell off of the desk.
3. He wouldn't come inside of the classroom.

'Dangling' prepositions

A **dangling preposition** is what you get if you end a sentence in a preposition:

This is the town I was born *in*.

Many people consider this to be wrong, and think that a **relative pronoun** should be used:

This is the town *in which* I was born.

However, this can sometimes result in a clumsy sentence, so sometimes it is better to reword the sentence using a simpler structure:

I was born in this town.



How would you reword these sentences to avoid ending them with a preposition, and without making them sound clumsy?

1. She is someone I trust in.
2. Leeds is the city to which I am moving.