

Grammar Notes

Grammar for IELTS: 7 Key English Grammar Rules You Should Know

Good grammar is essential for taking the IELTS exam.

Grammar is not tested directly in this exam, so you might be surprised to hear this.

But it is true: Proper English grammar is *very* important for **getting a high IELTS score!**

Even though there is no part of the IELTS that focuses *only* on grammar, you will need to study grammar to get on the path to exam success. Grammar helps you make progress in all the four skills, reading, writing, listening and speaking.

You'll be able to feel your progress in speaking and writing mainly, because this is where you will actively use grammar structures to express your ideas. However, knowing grammar will also help you understand language, both in reading and in listening, because you'll become more familiar with grammar structures and will understand what others want to say right away.

The best way to improve your grammar is to study each rule one by one, read some examples, make your own examples and then practice each rule by doing exercises.

We selected some important grammar rules for you to learn so that you feel more confident in the IELTS exam. Each rule is followed by examples and a short exercise. Once you've done the exercises, you can check with the answer key at the end of the post.

7 English Grammar Rules You Need to Get a Higher IELTS Score

1. The Simple Aspect

We use the **simple aspect** to talk about general, permanent or repeated actions. Here, the present simple is used to refer to a general, habitual action:

I often **read** business magazines online.

In the above example, it is implied that you read these magazines online all the time. This is something you do regularly. We use the **continuous aspect** to focus on progressive actions that usually happen around the moment of speaking.

Here, the present continuous is used to refer to an action that is happening at the moment of speaking: I **am reading** an interesting book.

The same rule applies to all the verb tenses, past, present and future. If you want to focus on the continuity of the action, use the continuous aspect. If you are more interested in the result of the action, then use the simple aspect.

Why is this useful for IELTS?

In **IELTS Speaking Part 1** you have to answer questions about yourself.

You will need to make sure you use the **right verb tense** and the **right aspect**—simple or continuous—depending on what you want to say. If you want to talk about general things that you do regularly, then you need the present simple. If, however, you want to refer to actions that are temporary and happen around the moment of speaking, then you need the present continuous.

You may also need this grammar rule in **Writing Part 1** when describing trends shown in graphs or charts. You are probably going to use the past simple quite a lot because in this part you report on

situations that happened in the past

Examples:

Between January and March, the profit **rose** by 10%.

They **produced** twice the amount of cars in June.

Hungary **accounted for** 10% of the students involved in the competition.

Let's practice this rule by putting the verbs in the right tense and aspect:

- 1. I ____ (exercise) every other day, but I ____ (not like) going to sports competitions.
- 2. The graphs ____ (show) how the total number of students ____ (change) in the past 5 years.
- 3. I ____ (do) an internship this spring, so I ____ (not want) to take another job just yet.
- 4. Alan ____ (watch) a movie when I ____ (arrive).

2. The Simple Past and Present Perfect Verb Tenses

When using the past tense, we see these past actions as having no connection with the present. They belong to the past, so we use the **past tense** to express them.

I **ate** my breakfast with Tony and then we **saw** a movie.

The action above happened in the past. There is no connection with the present, so we use the **simple past**. If, however, the action happened in the past but it has some kind of impact on the present, or if it continues into the present, we need to use the **present perfect**.

I **haven't eaten** breakfast yet, I'm starving.

The above is present perfect because it is a past action but it has an obvious impact on the present, the speaker is now hungry. I **have been waiting** here since 10 a.m.

The above is present perfect because the action started in the past but is continuing into the present, when the speaker is *still* waiting.

Why is this useful for IELTS?

In the IELTS speaking test you may have to talk about different events from the past, either about yourself or about other matters. Decide if the actions are still relevant in the present, if they still have an impact or not.

You have more time to make this decision when you are writing than when speaking, but if you practice this rule you'll be able to think faster.

Have a look at the following sentences and decide whether to use the **past** or the **present perfect**:

- 5. I ____ (start) studying for the IELTS exam two months ago but I still ____ (not decide) whether to move to Australia.
- 6. According to the bar chart, more women than men ____ (take) the course last year.
- 7. Entertainment ____ (change) a lot since people ____ (start) using the Internet every day.

3. The Passive Voice

The **passive voice** can be used whenever you want to sound more formal and impersonal.

You form the passive voice by using the verb "**to be**" in the tense you want, plus the **past participle** (the third form of the verb; for example, for the verb "**write**" you would use "**written**").

Examples:

Almost 50% more courses **were chosen** in the second semester as compared to the first one. (the passive voice is used here, with the past tense of the verb “to be” and the past participle of the verb “choose”). More research needs **to be done** before choosing a certain supplier. (“do” is used in the passive voice in the infinitive, with the verb “be” used in the infinitive and the past participle of the verb “do”).

Why is this useful for IELTS?

You can use the passive voice in both writing tasks in the IELTS exam, particularly in reports where a more formal tone is needed. Now try using the verbs in parentheses in the right passive voice form. These are examples you could use in your own formal reports!

- 8. As can _____ (see) from the figures, the number of first year students decreased dramatically in the last five years.
- 9. As _____ (show) in the diagram, there was a marked increase in the number of students driving their own cars to school.
- 10. More language courses _____ (choose) by students in the second semester.

4. Modal Verbs

You can use modal verbs when you want to express different nuances like degrees of certainty.

- **Could, might** and **may** are modal verbs and can be used to refer to possible but uncertain actions in the future, with **might** being slightly less certain than **may**.

Examples:

We **could** be late if we stop for drinks now.

I **may** want to spend my holiday in Europe, but everything depends on my partner. We **might** want to move to a different class if the problem persists.

- **Could have, might have** and **may have** are used to express *possible* actions in the present or past—you are suggesting that these actions are or were possible, or that they are or were completed.

Examples:

They **could have** left hours ago.

It's almost midnight in Spain, the plane **might have** landed by now. I **may have** mentioned your name to my colleague.

- **Can** is used to make general possible statements about the present, while **could** is used as the past of **can** with this meaning.

Examples:

My boss **can** be very demanding at times.

Students **can** be difficult to motivate in evening classes. My boss **could** be very demanding when I first

got hired.

Students **could** be difficult to motivate when I was an inexperienced teacher.

- **Can't (cannot)** is used to express impossibility.

Example:

These conclusions **can't** be right.

- **Must** is used when we are sure something is true and **must have** is used with the same meaning for the past.

Examples:

There **must** be a better explanation for why they haven't arrived yet.

They **must have changed** their marketing strategy to afford such good prices.

Why is this useful for IELTS?

In the IELTS exam, you may find modal verbs in reading and in listening and if you get their meaning right you stand a better chance of getting that part of the test right.

In speaking you may want to use them in Part 3 when extending the discussion from yourself to other aspects the examiner might ask you about. Modal verbs can be used to express probability when making generalizations and talking more abstractly.

Now try practicing them by filling in the gaps with the right modal verbs studied above:

- 11. This _____ (not be) your phone, I know you had a different ringtone.
- 12. It _____ (be) Donna at the door, she called to say she is sick.
- 13. They _____ (change) their plans, but they haven't said anything to me.

5. The Definite Article

The **definite article (the)**, as the name suggests, is used for talking about people or things that are known to the speaker, already mentioned earlier, described in some detail or unique.

Examples:

Can you turn **the** TV on? (The speaker knows which TV they are talking about.)

We are not going by car. **The** car is not big enough for all of us. (The car has already been mentioned, so we know what car the speaker is referring to.)

The gift they brought was a bit inappropriate. (We know what gift the speaker is talking about.) I can't open the door, as I don't have **the** key. (The key is unique.)

- **The** can also be used with superlatives, ordinal numbers, countries that have plurals in them or that include the words "republic" or "kingdom."

Examples:

This is **the** best movie I've seen in a while. (superlative)

This is **the** second time I've met him today. (ordinal number)

The Czech Republic is one of my favorite country in Europe. (country that includes the word "republic")

Why is this useful for IELTS?

In the IELTS Writing exam, leave a few minutes at the end to proofread for grammar mistakes. If you're still having doubts whether you are using **the** correctly, try practicing in writing first and then in speaking, as you have more thinking time to decide if you should use **the** or not. It's easy to erase it in case you decide that the person or thing is in fact undefined, new or not specified.

To practice making this decision, use **the** or nothing in the following gaps:

- 14. I don't like _romantic comedies, I prefer ____ thrillers, but I like ____ one you suggested last week.
- 15. Moving to _United States was a big decision, but not _best they took.
- 16. ____ employees don't like it when their bonuses are being cut.

6. Comparing Adjectives

You should use adjectives as often as you can to describe people or things because they prove you have a wide range of vocabulary in speaking and writing. You may need to compare them using comparatives or superlatives, depending on what you are trying to say.

There are a few rules you need to keep in mind:

- Most one syllable adjectives take **-er** and **-est** at the end to form the comparative and the superlative.

Examples:

My plan is **safer** than yours.
This is the **safest** plan of them all.

- Two-syllable adjectives can form the comparative and superlative either by adding **-er** and **-est** or by using **more** and **the most**. In most cases, both forms can be used.

Examples:

This is a **simpler** version of what I've just said.
I've never lifted a **heavier** bag.
This is **the narrowest** path I've ever walked on.
His was **the most complete** answer I got.

- Adjectives of three or more syllables use **more** and **the most** to form the comparative and the superlative.

Examples:

I've never heard a **more beautiful** song.
This is the **most interesting** story I've ever read

Pay special attention to irregular adjectives that don't follow the rules above:

good ⇒ better ⇒ the best
bad ⇒ worse ⇒ the worst
far ⇒ farther ⇒ the farthest
little ⇒ less ⇒ least

In the IELTS exam you may want to use adjectives to prove your wide range of vocabulary, but pay attention to **spelling** while taking the writing test.

- Adjectives ending in consonant + y: The y changes to an i when adding *-er* or *-est*.

Examples:

Shiny ⇒ shinier ⇒ shiniest
Icy ⇒ icier ⇒ iciest

- Adjectives ending in *e*: The *e* is dropped when adding *-er* or *-est*.

Examples:

Polite ⇒ politer ⇒ politest
Gentle ⇒ gentler ⇒ gentlest

- Adjectives ending in a consonant with a single vowel preceding it, double the consonant when adding *-er* or *-est*.

Examples:

Big ⇒ bigger ⇒ biggest
Red ⇒ redder ⇒ reddest
Sad ⇒ sadder ⇒ saddest

Have a look at the following sentences and fill in the gaps with the correct comparative or superlative form:

- 17. This is the ____ (fast) route to our destination.
- 18. The salad your mom makes is ____ (delicious) than this one.
- 19. His report is ____ (comprehensive) than I expected it to be.

7. Watch Out for Frequent Spelling Mistakes

Here's a list of frequent spelling mistakes students make. Make sure you understand the rule behind each mistake so that in the IELTS Writing exam you don't make these mistakes!

- Double *l* in adverbs. Normally, you can add *-ly* to many adjectives and turn them into adverbs. For example, interesting becomes the adverb *interestingly*. However, if the adjective ends in *l* already, then its adverb will have a double *l*:

Examples:

Beautiful ⇒ beautifully

- Adding -ing and -ed to verbs. If the verb ends in an -e, then the -e is dropped before you add -ing or -ed:

Examples:

Live ⇒ living ⇒ lived

Fake ⇒ faking ⇒ faked

- If the verb ends in a *consonant + vowel + consonant* pattern of letters, then we double the final consonant when adding **-ing** or **-ed**:

Examples:

Plan ⇒ planning ⇒ planned

Stop ⇒ stopping ⇒ stopped

- If the verb ends in **-ie**, we change it to **-ying** when adding **-ing**:

Examples:

Lie ⇒ lying

Die ⇒ dying

Now have a look at the following sentences and correct the spelling mistakes if you find any. Some sentences are correct.

20. I have never studyied Geography and I regret it.
21. They've been planing to visit, but never got the chance to do it.
22. The clock stopped working hours ago.
23. I've been listenning to this lecture for one hour and I still don't get the point of it.
24. The little girl is tying her shoelaces.
25. He was fixing his bike when I got there.

These are just a few basic grammar rules you need to know to get a higher IELTS score. Remember that just doing IELTS tests is usually not enough. You need to improve your general level of English to notice progress.

The best part about learning grammar is that you feel more confident in all the four skills—reading, writing, listening and speaking.

Verb Forms

Forms of verb or for that matter the verb itself is an integral part of English. Verb comes from the Latin verbum, a word. It is so called because it is the most important part in a sentence. It is the word that tells or asserts something about a person or thing. Different forms of verbs are must to built a tense. Thus before the knowledge of tense - the base of English language - knowledge of three forms of verb - First form of Verb, Second form of Verb and Third form of verb - and its usages is must for any learner of this most used International language. We are providing here a complete list of verbs along with past tense of verb and its usage.

Present Tense	Past Tense	Past Participle	Present Participle
Abuse	Abused	Abused	Abusing
Act	Acted	Acted	Acting
Add	Added	Added	Adding
Admire	Admired	Admired	Admiring
Advise	Advised	Advised	Advising
Allow	Allowed	Allowed	allowing
Answer	Answered	Answered	Answering
Apear	Appeared	Appeared	Appearing
Appoint	Appointed	Appointed	Appointing
Arise	Arose	Arisen	Arising
Arrest	Arrested	Arrested	Arresting
Arrive	Arrived	Arrived	Arriving
Ask	Asked	Asked	Asking
Attack	Attacked	Attacked	Attacking
Awake	Awoke	Awoke	Awaking
Bake	Baked	Baked	Baking
Bark	Barked	Barked	Barking
Bathe	Bathed	Bathed	Bathing
Be	"Was, Were"	Been	Being
Bear	Bore	Born	Bearing
Become	Became	Become	Becoming
Beg	Begged	Begged	Begging
Begin	Began	Begun	Beginning
Behave	Behaved	Behaved	Behaving
Behold	Beheld	Beheld	Beholding
Believe	Believed	Believed	Believing
Bend	Bent	Bent	Bending
Bet	Bet	Bet	Betting
Bid	Bade	Bidden	Bidding
Bind	Bound	Bound	Binding
Bite	Bit	Bitten	Biting
Bleed	Bled	Bled	Bleeding
Bless	Blessed	Blessed	Blessing
Blow	Blew	Blown	Blowing
Boast	Boasted	Boasted	Boasting
Boil	Boiled	Boiled	Boiling
Borow	Brorowed	Borrowed	Borrowing
Break	Broke	Broken	Breaking
Bring	Brought	Brought	Bringing
Build	Built	Built	Building
Burn	Burnt	Burnt	Burning
Burst	Burst	Burst	Bursting
Buy	Bought	Bought	Buying
Call	Called	Called	Calling
Carry	Carried	Carried	Carrying
Cast	Cast	Cast	Casting
Catch	Caught	Caught	Catching
Change	Changed	Changed	Changing
Check	Checked	Checked	Checking
Choose	Chose	Chosen	Choosing
Clap	Clapped	Clapped	Clapping
Clean	Cleaned	Cleaned	Cleaning
Climb	Climbed	Climbed	Climbing
Cling	Clung	Clung	Clinging
Close	Closed	Closed	Closing
Collect	Collected	Collected	Collecting
Come	Came	Come	Coming
Complain	Complained	Complained	Complaining

Consult	Consulted	Consulted	Consulting
Cook	Cooked	Cooked	Cooking
Copy	Copied	Copied	Copying
Cost	Cost	Cost	Costing
Count	Counted	Counted	Counting
Cover	Covered	Covered	Covering
Creep	Crept	Crept	Creeping
Cross	Crossed	Crossed	Crossing
Crow	Crowed	Crowed	Crowing
Cry	Cried	Cried	Crying
Cut	Cut	Cut	Cutting
Dance	Danced	Danced	Dancing
Deceive	Deceived	Deceived	Deceiving
Decide	Decided	Decided	Deciding
Decorate	Decorated	Decorated	Decorating
Defeat	Defeated	Defeated	Defeating
Desire	Desired	Desired	Desiring
Die	Died	Died	Dying
Dig	Dug	Dug	Digging
Dip	Dipped	Dipped	Dipping
Discover	Discovered	Discovered	Discovering
Divide	Divided	Divided	Dividing
Do	Did	Done	Doing
Draw	Drew	Drwan	Drawing
Dream	Dreamed	Dreamed	Dreaming
Drink	Drank	Drunk	Drinking
Drive	Drove	Driven	Driving
Dye	Dyed	Dyed	Dyeing
Earn	Earned	Earned	Earning
Eat	Ate	Eaten	Eating
Employ	Employed	Employed	Employing
Enter	Entered	Entered	Entering
Explain	Explained	Explained	Explaining
Face	Faced	Faced	Facing
Fail	Failed	Failed	Failing
Fall	Fell	Fallen	Falling
Fear	Feared	Feared	Fearing
Feed	Fed	Fed	Feeding
Feel	Felt	Felt	Feeling
Fight	Fought	Fought	Fighting
Find	Found	Found	Finding
Fine	Fined	Fined	Fining
Finish	Finished	Finished	Finishing
Flee	Fled	Fled	Fleeing
Float	Floated	Floated	Floating
Fly	Flew	Flown	Flying
Forbid	Forbade	Forbidden	Forbidding
Forget	Forgot	Forgotten	Forgetting
Freeze	Froze	Frozen	Freezing
Gather	Gathered	Gathered	Gathering
Get	Got	Got	Getting
Give	Gave	Given	Giving
Graze	Grazed	Grazed	Grazing
Grind	Ground	Ground	Grinding
Grow	Grew	Grown	Growing
Hang	Hung	Hung	Hanging
Hate	Hated	Hated	Hating
Have	Had	Had	Having
Hear	Heard	Heard	Hearing

Help	Helped	Helped	Helping
Hide	Hid	Hidden	Hiding
Hold	Held	Held	Holding
Hurt	Hurt	Hurt	Hurting
Improve	Improved	Improved	Improving
Invite	Invited	Invited	Inviting
Join	Joined	Joined	Joining
Jump	Jumped	Jumped	Jumping
Keep	Kept	Kept	Keeping
Kill	Killed	Killed	Killing
Kneel	Knelt	Knelt	Kneeling
Knit	Knitted	Knitted	Knitting
Know	Knew	Known	Knowing
Laugh	Laughed	Laughed	Laughing
Lay	Laid	Laid	Laying
Learn	Learned	Learned	Learning
Leave	Left	Left	Leaving
Lend	Lent	Lent	Lending
Let	Let	Let	Letting
Lie	Lay	Lain	Lynig
Light	Lighted	Lit	Lighting
Like	Liked	Liked	Liking
Listen	Listened	Listened	Listening
Live	Lived	Lived	Living
Look	Looked	Looked	Looking
Lose	Lost	Lost	Listening
Love	Loved	Loved	Loving
Make	Made	Made	Making
Marry	Married	Married	Marrying
Mean	Meant	Meant	Meaning
Meet	Met	Met	Meeting
Melt	Melted	Melted	Melting
Mend	Mended	Mended	Mending
Mix	Mixed	Mixed	Mixing
Move	Moved	Moved	Moving
Name	Named	Named	Naming
Need	Needed	Needed	Needing
Nip	Nipped	Nipped	Nipping
Obey	Obeyed	Obeyed	Obeying
Open	Opened	Opened	Opening
Oppose	Opposed	Opposed	Opposing
Order	Ordered	Ordered	Ordering
Pay	Paid	Paid	Paying
Peep	Peeped	Peeped	Peeping
Plant	Planted	Planted	Planting
Play	Played	Played	Playing
Plough	Ploughed	Ploughed	Ploughing
Pluck	Plucked	Plucked	Plucking
Praise	Praised	Praised	Praising
Pray	Prayed	Prayed	Praying
Preach	Preached	Preached	Preaching
Prepare	Prepared	Prepared	Preparing
Prevent	Prevented	Prevented	Preventing
Promise	Promised	Promised	Promising
Prove	Proved	Proved	Proving
Pull	Pulled	Pulled	Pulling
Punish	Punished	Punished	Punishing
Push	Pushed	Pushed	Pushing

Put	Put	Put	Putting
Quit	Quit	Quit	Quitting
Quarrel	Quarrelled	Quarrelled	Quarrelling
Rain	Rained	Rained	Raining
Reach	Reached	Reached	Reaching
Read	Read	Read	Reading
Refuse	Refused	Refused	Refused
Remember	Remembered	Remembered	Remembering
Repair	Repaired	Repaired	Repairing
Reply	Replied	Replied	Replying
Resign	Resigned	Resigned	Resigning
Rest	Rested	Rested	Resting
Return	Returned	Returned	Returning
Ride	Rode	Ridden	Riding
Ring	Rang	Rung	Ringling
Rise	Rose	Risen	Rising
Roar	Roared	Roared	Roaring
Save	Saved	Saved	Saving
Saw	Sawed	Sawed	Sawing
Say	Said	Said	Saying
See	Saw	Seen	Seeing
Seek	Sought	Sought	Seeking
Select	Selected	Selected	Selecting
Sell	Sold	Sold	Selling
Send	Sent	Sent	Sending
Set	Set	Set	Setting
Shake	Shook	Shaken	Shaking
Shed	Shed	Shed	Shedding
Shine	Shone	Shone	Shining
Shoot	Shot	Shot	Shooting
Shrink	Shrank	Shrunk	Shrinking
Shut	Shut	Shut	Shutting
Sing	Sang	Sung	Singing
Sink	Sank	Sunk	Sinking
Sit	Sat	Sat	Sitting
Slay	Slew	Slain	Slaying
Sleep	Slept	Slept	Sleeping
Slip	Slipped	Slipped	Slipping
Speak	Spoke	Spoken	Speaking
Spend	Spent	Spent	Spending
Spit	Spat	Spat	Spitting
Spread	Spread	Spread	Spreading
Stand	Stood	Stood	Standing
Stay	Stayed	Stayed	Staying
Steal	Stole	Stolen	Stealing
Stick	Stuck	Stuck	Sticking
Stop	Stopped	Stopped	Stopping
Strike	Struck	Struck	Striking
Study	Studied	Studied	Stydying
Swear	Swore	Sworn	Swearing
Sweep	Swept	Swept	Sweeping
Swim	Swam	Swum	Swimming
Swing	Swung	Swung	Swinging
Take	Took	Taken	Taking
Talk	Talked	Talked	Talking
Teach	Tought	Tought	Teaching
Tear	Tore	Torn	Tearing
Tell	Told	Told	Telling

Think	Thought	Thought	Thinking
Thrust	Thrust	Thrust	Thrusting
Tie	Tied	Tied	Tying
Touch	Touched	Touched	Touching
Trust	Trusted	Trusted	Trusting
Try	Tried	Tried	Trying
Understand	Understood	Understood	Understanding
Use	Used	Used	Using
Wait	Waited	Waited	Waiting
Walk	Walked	Walked	Walking
Wander	Wandered	Wandered	Wandering
Wash	Washed	Washed	Washing
Waste	Wasted	Wasted	Wasting
Watch	Watched	Watched	Watching
Wear	Wore	Worn	Wearing
Weave	wove	Woven	Weaving
Wed	Wedded	Wedded	Wedding
Weep	Wept	Wept	Weeping
Win	Won	Won	Winning
Wind	Wound	Wound	Winding
Wish	Wished	Wished	Wishing
Wonder	Wondered	Wondered	Wondering
Work	Worked	Worked	Working
Worship	Worshipped	Worshipped	Worshipping
Wound	Wounded	Wounded	Wounding
Wrap	Wrapped	Wrapped	Wrapping
Wring	Wrung	Wrung	Wringing
Write	Wrote	Written	Writing
Yield	Yielded	Yielded	Yielding

Preposition Chart

Preposition	How It's Used	Example
Showing Time		
At	exact times meal timesparts of the day age	<i>at</i> 3pm <i>at</i> dinner <i>at</i> sundown <i>at</i> age 21
By	a limit in time in the sense of <i>at the latest</i>	<i>by</i> sundown <i>by</i> the due date
In	seasons months years durations after a certain period oftime	<i>in</i> the summer <i>in</i> November <i>in</i> 1992 <i>in</i> the same year <i>in</i> an hour
On	days of the week parts of the day where theday is named dates	<i>on</i> Wednesday <i>on</i> Friday night <i>on</i> December 4th
Ago	a certain time in the past	2 years <i>ago</i>
After	a point in time that followsanother point in time	<i>after</i> the game; <i>after</i> the surgery
Before	a point in time that precedesanother point in time	before leaving; before breakfast; before 2004

During	something that happened/will happen in a specific period of time	during the night; during war
For	over a certain period in the	<i>for</i> 2 years
	past	
Past	telling the time	ten past six (6:10)
Since	from a certain period of time	since 1980; since the accident
Throughout	something that happened/will happen continuously in a specific period of time	throughout the year; throughout the ordeal
To	telling time from an earlier time to a later time	ten to six (5:50) 1pm to 3pm
Until	up to a certain point in time how long something is going to last	until the end; until sunrise
Up (to)	from an earlier point to later point	up (to) now
Showing Place		
At	an object's settled position or position after it has moved meeting place or location point of direction a target	at the airport; at the ceremony at home; at the desk turning at the intersection throwing the snowball at Lucy
By	close to alongside of	by the school by the window
In	in an enclosed space in a geographic location in a print medium	in the garage; in an envelope in San Diego; in Texas in a book; in a magazine
On	for a certain side for a river/lake for a floor in a house for public transport for television, radio	on the left London lies on the Thames on the floor on a bus on the air; on TV
About	around or outside of at but not exactly on related to	about town about five feet tall about my father's business
Above	suspended higher than something else superior to	above the door above me in rank
After	pursuit a point further from an earlier point	chasing after the robbers the corner after the bighouse
Against	leaning on opposite to or facing	against the door against the wall
Along	tracing the length of, without emphasis on the ends	along the hallway; along the river
Among	in the company of (three or more) in a crowd	among friends among the masses

	the end of a long list	among other things
Around	location of something explaining a period of time	drive around the block around 3 o'clock
Before	in the front in terms of space	before the emperor; before God
Behind	on the back side of a point inspace	behind the car; behind hersmile
Below	something lower than or underneath something else	below the stairs; below expectations
From	in the sense of where from	a flower from the garden
Into	enter a room/building	go into the kitchen/house
Onto	movement to the top of something	jump onto the table
Over	covered by something else “more than” “getting to the other side” overcoming an obstacle	put a jacket over your shirt over 16 years of age walk over the bridgeclimb over the wall
Through	something with limits on top, bottom and the sides	drive through the tunnel
Towards	movement in the direction ofsomething (but not directly to it)	go 5 steps towards the house
Other Important Prepositions		
About	for topics, meaning what about	we were talking about you
At	For age	she learned Russian at 45
By	who made it rise or fall of something travelling (other than walking or horseriding)	a book by Mark Twain prices have risen by 10percent by car, by bus
From	who gave it	a present from Jane
In	entering a car/taxi	get in the car
Of	who/what did it belong to	a page of the book
Of	what does it show	the picture of a place
Off	leaving a public transport vehicle	get off the train
On	walking or riding on horseback entering a public transport vehicle	on foot, on horsebackget on the bus
Out of	leaving a car/taxi	get out of the taxi

For more information on using prepositions, see the following resources:

Beason, Larry and Mark Lester. *A Commonsense Guide to Grammar and Usage*, 6th ed. Azar, Betty S. and Stacy A. Hagen.

Understanding and Using English Grammar, 4th ed. Johnston, Ted and Joe Old. *English Beyond the Basics*, 2nd ed.