PREPOSITIONS

Prepositions are words that demonstrate temporal, possessive, directional, or spatial relationships between two words in a sentence. This means that they can tell us about the relationship of time, space, movement, or possession between a noun or a pronoun and another word in the sentence.

Time and Location (IN, ON, and AT)
Prepositions can tell the reader about the temporal relationship between a noun or a pronoun and another word in a sentence. Which preposition you choose depends on the unit of time to which you are referring.

AT – used when referring to very specific points in time, such as a specific time of day or a specific location or address.
   EX: I will meet Jennifer for coffee at 10:00am.
   EX: Robert lives at 755 Drury Ln.

ON – used when referring to a specific point in time, such as a particular day or a segment of a week/month or to particular street.
   EX: Every year my family goes to the beach to watch the fireworks on the 4th of July.
   EX: Sanja walks her dog on Lexington Ave every morning.

IN – used when referring to a larger unit of time, such as a month, year, or century or a general location.
   EX: My sister graduated from law school in 2009.
   EX: The BBC is based in England.

TIME AND PLACE: in, on, and at


1 Adapted in part from http://www.talkenglish.com/Grammar/prepositions-of-to-for.aspx
**Location and Movement**

Prepositions can tell the reader about where a person or object is as well as it how he/she or it moves in relation to another person or object. Below is an image that depicts some of the most common prepositions that indicate movement and place.

EX: The chicken walked across the road.
EX: The dog jumped onto the couch.
EX: Mira’s best friend walked beside her as they strolled through the park.
EX: Based on the ceramic evidence, these remains were attributed to the Oneota, who migrated into an area that was previously occupied by the Mississippian culture.
EX: The New Archaeology was a paradigm shift toward a more scientifically based archaeology.

**Of**

The preposition of can indicate belonging, a relationship, a connection, a reference, or an amount or number. When used to indicate belonging, it can be used instead of an apostrophe but should not be used with proper nouns (with the exception of geographic locations).

**Belonging, relationship, or connection:**
EX: She heard the cry of a baby coming from the apartment above.
EX: The State of New York requires all vehicle passengers in the front seat to be at least 14 years old.
EX: The title of your paper should reflect its content.

**Reference**
EX: I moved to Columbus in the summer of 2009.
EX: I got a discount of 30% on the shoes I purchased last week.

**Amount or number**
EX: Joey had two slices of pie for dessert.
EX: Amelia earned a score of 2100 on her SAT exam.
To
The preposition to can indicate movement toward something or someone, a limit or ending point, a relationship, or a time or period of time.

Movement toward something or someone
EX: Sara went to the grocery store on 5th Avenue.
EX: Jeremy returned the book he borrowed to the library.
EX: Make sure you deliver your paper to Dr. Field on Tuesday.

Limit or ending point
EX: The water in the shallow end of the pool was up to Maria’s waist.
EX: The cost of a new copy of the textbook for the biology course can be up to $120.

Relationship
EX: Jackie responded well to the constructive criticism she received on her paper.
EX: Earning good grades is very important to Arya.
EX: The instructor’s answer to Tyrion’s question prompted a long class discussion.

Time or period of time
EX: The Lannisters arrived at the party at 10 minutes to 6:00 on Friday evening.
EX: Jon works from 10 to 5 every Wednesday.

For
The preposition for can indicate use, time or duration, or an object or recipient of something

Use
EX: Annie bought the required textbook for her class.
EX: Julie was awarded a grant for the research she plans to conduct in Fiji.

Time or duration
EX: Eli worked at the electric company for four years.
EX: That stack of books is the reading I have for the rest of the semester.

Object or recipient of an object, action, perception, etc.
EX: Sarah bought a birthday cake for me.
EX: Run for your life!