

ENGLISH PREPOSITIONS LISTED

Josef Essberger

150 prepositions, including:

- 94 one-word prepositions
- 56 complex prepositions
- 370 example sentences

ABOARD ABOUT ABOVE ACROSS AFTER AGAINST AHEAD
OF À LA ALONG ALONGSIDE ALONG WITH AMID AMIDST
AMONG AMONGST (UK) ANTI APART FROM AROUND AS AS
FOR ASIDE FROM AS TO ASTRIDE AT AWAY FROM
BARRING BECAUSE OF BEFORE BEHIND BELOW
BENEATH...

English Prepositions Listed

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Introduction

This ebook contains a list of most English prepositions in use today.

The first section lists “one-word prepositions” (for example **before**, **into**, **on**). The second section lists “complex prepositions” (phrases of two or more words that function like one-word prepositions, for example **according to**, **but for**, **in spite of**).

The name “preposition” (pre + position) means “place before”. Prepositions usually come before another word, usually a noun or noun phrase:

- noun
- pronoun
- noun phrase
- gerund (verb in -ing form)

If a **preposition** does not come before **another word**, it is still closely linked to another word:

- **Who** did you talk **to**?
- **To whom** did you talk?
- I talked **to Jane**.

Many prepositions can also be adverbs:

- They are **in** the kitchen. **preposition**
- Please come **in**. **adverb**

A few prepositions can also be conjunctions:

- Everyone came **but** Tara. **preposition**
- I asked her **but** she didn't answer. **conjunction**

Abbreviations used in this ebook:

conj. = conjunction

UK = *mainly* British English

US = *mainly* American English

This ebook is written in British English.

Why 150 prepositions?

It is not possible to produce a definitive list of English prepositions. That means that nobody can create a list of prepositions and say: “Here are all the prepositions in the English language – no more and no fewer.” Why? Because complex prepositions can theoretically be added to the language at any time. This ebook lists all 94 one-word prepositions (which are unlikely to change or be added to) and 56 complex prepositions (which may possibly be added to as the language evolves). This total of 150 prepositions is comprehensive at the time of writing, and represents all the prepositions currently found in a good English dictionary such as the *Concise Oxford Dictionary*.

One-word Prepositions

- aboard**
- We went aboard the boat.
 - Is there a doctor aboard the plane?
- about**
- What do you think about Mary?
 - Let's talk about something different.
 - I've just read a book about President Kennedy.
 - The lion was pacing about its cage.
- above**
- We are flying above the clouds.
 - We live in the hills, 1,000 metres above sea-level.
 - It's only two degrees above freezing point. [+2°C]
 - Who came above you in the test results?
- across**
- We drove across the desert.
 - The dog ran across the road.
 - There is a bridge across the river.
- after** (also conj.)
- We had lunch [1pm] after the meeting [11am].
 - Let's meet the day after tomorrow.
- against**
- Did you vote for or against the suggestion?
 - He put his bicycle against the wall.
- along**
- We walked along the beach for two miles.
 - There are trees along the road.
 - The toilet is along the corridor.
- alongside**
- Their boat came alongside our boat.
 - Team A worked alongside Team B during construction.
- amid**
amidst (poetic)
- I couldn't hear her amid the noise.
 - We were lost amidst the trees.

One-word Prepositions

- among**
amongst (UK)
- Is there a doctor among us?
 - There were secret police among the crowd.
 - I was amongst strangers. I didn't know anyone.
- anti**
- He seems to be anti my idea.
 - Some people are anti everything.
- around**
- We walked around the town for an hour.
 - They all sat around the camp fire.
 - There is a big fence around the house.
 - He was born around 1570.
 - Let's meet around 7pm.
- as** (also conj.)
- He is working as a waiter.
 - The risk is as nothing compared to the profit.
 - Ram is as tall as Anthony.
- astride**
- She sat astride the horse.
- at**
- He is at school.
 - We first met at a party.
 - Let's start the meeting at 9 o'clock.
 - He started work at 17 (years of age).
 - We are aiming at sales of \$1,000,000.
- atop** (poetic)
- The church is situated atop a hill.

One-word Prepositions

- bar**
- Everyone came bar Angela.
 - He is the best bar none.
- barring**
- Barring rain, we'll play tennis tomorrow.
- before** (also conj.)
- We had lunch [1pm] before the meeting [3pm].
 - We met the day before yesterday.
 - She was before me in the queue.
 - I would rather die before doing that.
- behind**
- There is a police car behind us. It's following us.
 - We have a garden behind our house.
 - The child was hiding behind the tree.
 - I am behind your project. I will support it.
 - Vonica finished behind Shirley in the race.
 - She is behind the other children in her class.
- below**
- Much of Holland is below sea-level.
 - There is a family in the flat below us.
 - The temperature is 5 degrees below freezing point. [-5°C]
 - I came below Vonica in the test.
 - You can buy it if it's below \$50.
- beneath**
- Our garage is beneath our house.
 - The tunnel runs beneath the sea.
 - Laurence is beneath the General Manager.
 - It was beneath his dignity to do that.
- beside**
- The river runs beside our house.
 - James was sitting beside Miriam.
- besides**
- What shall we have besides coffee?

between

- Tara was sitting between Ram and Ati.
- Between you and me, I think she's crazy.
- I can meet you between 1pm and 2pm.

beyond

- Can you see someone in the distance, beyond that house?
- This is too difficult. It's beyond me.
- The meeting continued beyond midnight.

but (also conj.)

- Everyone came but Andrea.

by

- We came by car.
- Fireworks were invented by the Chinese.
- He was shot by a professional killer.
- It happened by accident.
- He lost the race by five seconds.
- The room is 10 metres by 6 metres.
- We must finish by Tuesday.
- We were sitting by the window.
- By my calculation he must be 73.

- circa**
- He died circa 1270.
- concerning**
- Your teacher talked to me concerning your homework.
 - I have some questions concerning your decision.
- considering**
- Considering the poor quality, I think the price is too high.
 - I think I must be going, considering the time.
- counting**
- There were four people, or five counting the baby.
 - That makes \$70, not counting the tax.
- cum**
- I have a study-cum-bedroom.
 - She is a kind of secretary-cum-receptionist.

despite

- We went swimming despite the cold water.
- He passed the test despite being ill.

down

- They ran down the hill.
- The post office is down the road.
- They have had many wars down the years.

during

- He fell asleep during the meeting.
- I want to go swimming during the weekend.
- I was bored during the whole film.

except

- You can have any colour except blue.
- They all came except Stephen.

excepting

- I can eat anything excepting pork.
- Excepting Jo, everyone was present.

excluding

- It costs \$70, excluding \$10 for delivery. (Total = \$80.)
- We open every day excluding Christmas Day.

following

- We had coffee following lunch.
- He couldn't work following his illness.

for (also conj.)

- This is for you.
- Do you want to go for a walk?
- You use a corkscrew for opening bottles.
- Cigarettes are bad for you.
- I'm saving for a new car.
- Is this the road for Rome?
- They passed me over for John.
- Is this the train for Cambridge?
- I bought it for \$10.
- We worked for three hours.
- Keep walking for two kilometres.

from

- Where do you come from?
- This letter is from my wife.
- I bought this car from Henry.
- They prevented me from entering.
- My car is different from yours.
- We worked from Monday to Wednesday.
- Paper is made from wood.
- It can cost anything from \$5 to \$15.
- The police took my driving licence from me.
- He died from overwork.

given

- He is in very good health, given his age.
- Given the time, you ought to leave now.

gone (UK)

- It's certainly gone 11 o'clock. It must be 11.30.
- He's gone 50. He must be nearly 60 years old.

in

- Monkeys live in the jungle.
- John is the man with his hand in his pocket.
- I live in an apartment.
- She lives in Bangkok.
- Tara was born in 1977.
- Trains were invented in the nineteenth century.
- I'll come back in two weeks.
- Let's meet in the morning.
- There are 60 seconds in a minute.

including

- The price is \$70 including \$10 for delivery. (Total = \$70.)
- There were four of us, including the baby.

inside

- It was dark inside the tunnel.
- My modem is inside my computer. It's an internal modem.

into

- John went into that shop.
- If you heat ice it turns into water.
- We cut the cake into ten pieces.
- Five into ten makes two.

less

- 10 less 3 = 7.

like

- She is like her sister.
- She sings like a bird.
- It's not like John to complain.
- Do it like this.
- I feel like swimming.
- It looks like rain.
- I want something cold, like iced-coffee.

minus

- 10 minus 3 = 7.
- The temperature is minus 30 degrees centigrade.

near

- The school is near the post office.
- It's 20 December. We are very near Christmas Day.

notwithstanding

- Notwithstanding the low price, I don't want it.
- They went swimming, notwithstanding the rain.
- They went swimming, the rain notwithstanding.

One-word Prepositions

- of**
- I live in the house at the end of the road.
 - Where is the key of the car?
 - Do you like the work of Shakespeare?
 - What was the cost of this book?
 - He lives in the City of Westminster.
 - It was kind of you to help me.
 - This is the cause of the problem.
 - He died of cancer.
 - Most tables are made of wood.
 - Can I have a cup of coffee?
 - I know some of these people.
 - I don't know any of these people.
 - He lives south of London.
 - He lives in the south of London.
- off**
- Please take your shoes off the table.
 - Keep off the grass.
 - It fell off the table and broke.
 - They live in a street off Fifth Avenue.
- on**
- Please don't put your shoes on the table.
 - The picture is on page 7.
 - We live on a busy road. It's very noisy.
 - She is sunbathing on the beach.
 - Is there water on the Moon?
 - I need a book on bio-chemistry.
 - My birthday is on Monday.
 - I start work on 7 May.
 - Let's meet on the weekend. (US)
 - I'll see you on Christmas Day.
 - You must be on time.
 - He broke his leg on getting out of the car.
- onto (US)**
- The cat jumped onto the chair.
- see on to**
- The police are onto us. (slang)

opposite

- There is a post office opposite my house.
- She sat opposite him and looked into his eyes.

outside

- I don't live in London. I live outside London.
- It was very cold outside the car.
- This is outside my scope.

over

- We are flying over the mountains.
- Put the blanket over the bed.
- The cat jumped over the wall.
- Let's discuss it over dinner.
- The king ruled over the country for many years.
- The town is just over the border.
- It cost over \$50. It was \$53.25.
- There is rain over the whole country.
- It took over an hour to do my homework.
- The population has increased over the past twenty years.
- Can you stay with us over Christmas?

past

- I saw you yesterday when we drove past your school.
- The post office is just past the police station.
- Don't work past your bed-time.
- This is difficult. It's past me.
- It's nearly ten minutes past five. 5.09 to be precise.

pending

- We cannot supply you pending payment.
- Pending his return, we can do nothing.
- There were many arguments pending the negotiations.

per

- The speed limit is 70 miles per hour.
- The carpet costs \$10 per square metre.

plus

- 2 plus 2 = 4.
- There will be three of us, plus the baby.

pro

- Are you pro capital punishment?
- He is generally pro new ideas.

One-word Prepositions

- re**
- Re: your letter dated 21 May
 - I want to talk you re the proposed meeting.
- regarding**
- I would like to speak to you regarding my homework.
 - Regarding John, let's talk later.
- respecting**
- I would like to speak to you respecting my homework.
 - I am writing to you respecting our latest products.
- round**
- I live round the corner.
 - They all sat round the fire.
 - There is a hedge round the house.

- save** (formal)
- All save Mrs Jones were present.
- saving** (formal)
- Saving yourself, nobody thanked me.
- since** (also conj.)
- I haven't seen Josef since Monday.
 - Mr Brown has worked in a bank since 1985.

- than** (also conj.)
- He is a writer than whom there is no finer.
 - Your car is bigger than my car.
- through**
thru (US)
- The train goes through a tunnel.
 - I can see light through the keyhole.
 - You have been through a difficult experience.
 - You went through a red light.
 - The error occurred through my own stupidity.
 - They worked Monday through Thursday. [US]
- throughout**
- It is raining throughout the whole country.
 - He worked throughout the day, and most of the night.
- till** (also conj.)
- I work from 9am till 5pm.
 - Please wait till I come.
- to**
- Could you give this to Kob?
 - My car does 10 miles to the litre.
 - To his surprise, the door was open.
 - The museum is open from Monday to Friday.
 - The time is ten to five. [4.50]
- touching**
- Touching your homework, I think we need to speak.
- toward** (US)
towards (UK)
- He drove off toward(s) the mountain.
 - I'd better go. It's getting toward(s) midnight.
 - He contributed \$100,000 toward(s) the new building.
 - It's the first step toward(s) peace.
 - He has a positive attitude toward(s) his work.

under

- The mouse ran under the chair.
- The bucket is under the sink.
- Submarines can travel under water.
- We drove under a bridge.
- I have a T-shirt under my pullover.
- Who do you work under? Who is your boss?
- I am under orders from the President.
- What is the subject under discussion?
- Under the company rules, we can't do that.
- Please buy it if it's under \$50.

underneath

- The nurse put a pillow underneath his head.
- There is a big cellar underneath our house.

unlike

- That's very unusual. It's unlike Andrea to be so rude.
- This problem is unlike any we have met before.

until (formal, also conj.)

- They continued the meeting until 11pm.
- Please wait until I come.

up

- Jack and Jill ran up the hill.
- There is a post office up the street.

upon (formal)

- Please don't put your shoes upon the table.
- There are now no dinosaurs upon Earth.
- I need a book upon bio-chemistry.
- We met upon a Monday.
- He broke his leg upon getting out of the car.

versus

- He was the judge in the case of Gore versus Bush.
- We should choose peace versus war.

via

- We flew from Paris to Bangkok via Dubai.

with

- Do you live with your parents?
- He's been with EnglishClub.com for two years.
- I discussed it with her.
- With your permission, I'd like to go.
- If you mix red with yellow you get orange.
- Muriel is the girl with black hair.
- Do you want to come with us?
- I made this chair with my own hands.
- You'll forget her with time.

within

- There is a modem within the computer.
- I will finish within 30 minutes.
- He lives within 10 miles of his work.
- It's not within my power to help you.

without

- I want trousers without buttons.
- I came without my wife because she is working.
- He watched without speaking.

worth

- This car is worth \$10,000.

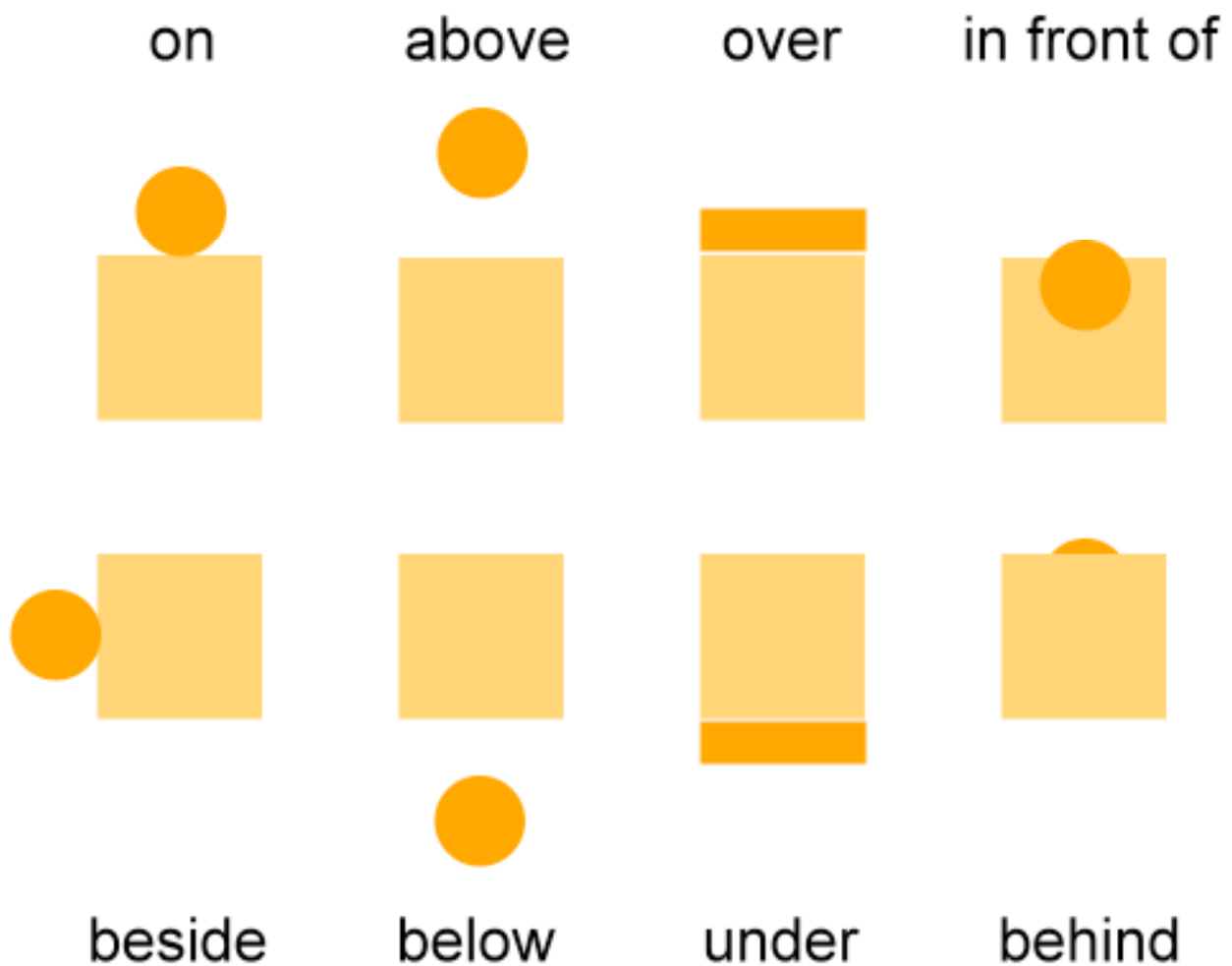
according to	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• According to John, Mary was late.
ahead of	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Anthony is ahead of Rachel in the race.• We have a long day ahead of us.
à la (from French)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This fish is cooked à la meunière.
along with	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Do you want some pork along with the chicken?
apart from	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nobody objected apart from you.
as for	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• As for Anthony, he will arrive later.
aside from	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• I have another car aside from this one.
as per	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We must work strictly as per the law.
as to	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• As to your behaviour, I think you were wrong.
as well as	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• You should telephone as well as writing.
away from	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The cat ran away from the dog.
because of	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We can't play tennis because of the rain.
but for	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• But for you, I would have been on time.
by means of	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• You open a door by means of its handle.
close to	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• My car is close to your car.
contrary to	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Contrary to expectations, the euro fell in value.
depending on	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We will play tennis tomorrow, depending on the rain.

- due to**
- The cancellation was due to the rain.
- except for**
- Everyone was present, except for Mary.
- forward of**
- He was sitting forward of me in the plane.
- further to**
- Further to your letter, I spoke to Mr Brown.
- in addition to**
- You were late, in addition to being rude.
- in between**
- He is in between the two sides.
- in case of**
- Please phone me in case of need.
- in face of**
- He reacts bravely in face of danger.
- in favour of**
- I am not in favour of capital punishment.
- in front of**
- You can park your car in front of my house.
 - I couldn't see the film because the woman in front of me was wearing a big hat.
- in lieu of**
- Can I pay pounds in lieu of dollars?
- in spite of**
- We went swimming in spite of the cold water.
- instead of**
- We don't have any tea. Would you like coffee instead of tea?
- in view of**
- In view of your illness, we will wait for a week.
- irrespective of**
- I don't like it, irrespective of what you say.
 - Irrespective of the price, I don't want it.
- near to**
- There is a restaurant near to my office.

next to	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The school is next to the post office.
on account of	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Don't worry on account of me.
on behalf of	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• I am writing to you on behalf of my mother.
on board	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Is there a doctor on board this plane?
on to (UK) see onto	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The cat jumped on to the chair.
on top of	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The cat is sitting on top of the television.
opposite to	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There is a tree opposite to the house.
other than	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We have every drink other than whisky.
out of	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Take your hands out of your pockets.• He went out of the room.• We're out of eggs.
outside of	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• They stopped outside of the city.
owing to	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We didn't go swimming, owing to the cold weather.
preparatory to	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• I made a graph preparatory to the meeting.
prior to	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• I never spoke French prior to living in France.
regardless of	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• I don't want it, regardless of the price.
save for	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Everyone came, save for Chulee.
thanks to	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Thanks to Shirley, we arrived on time.

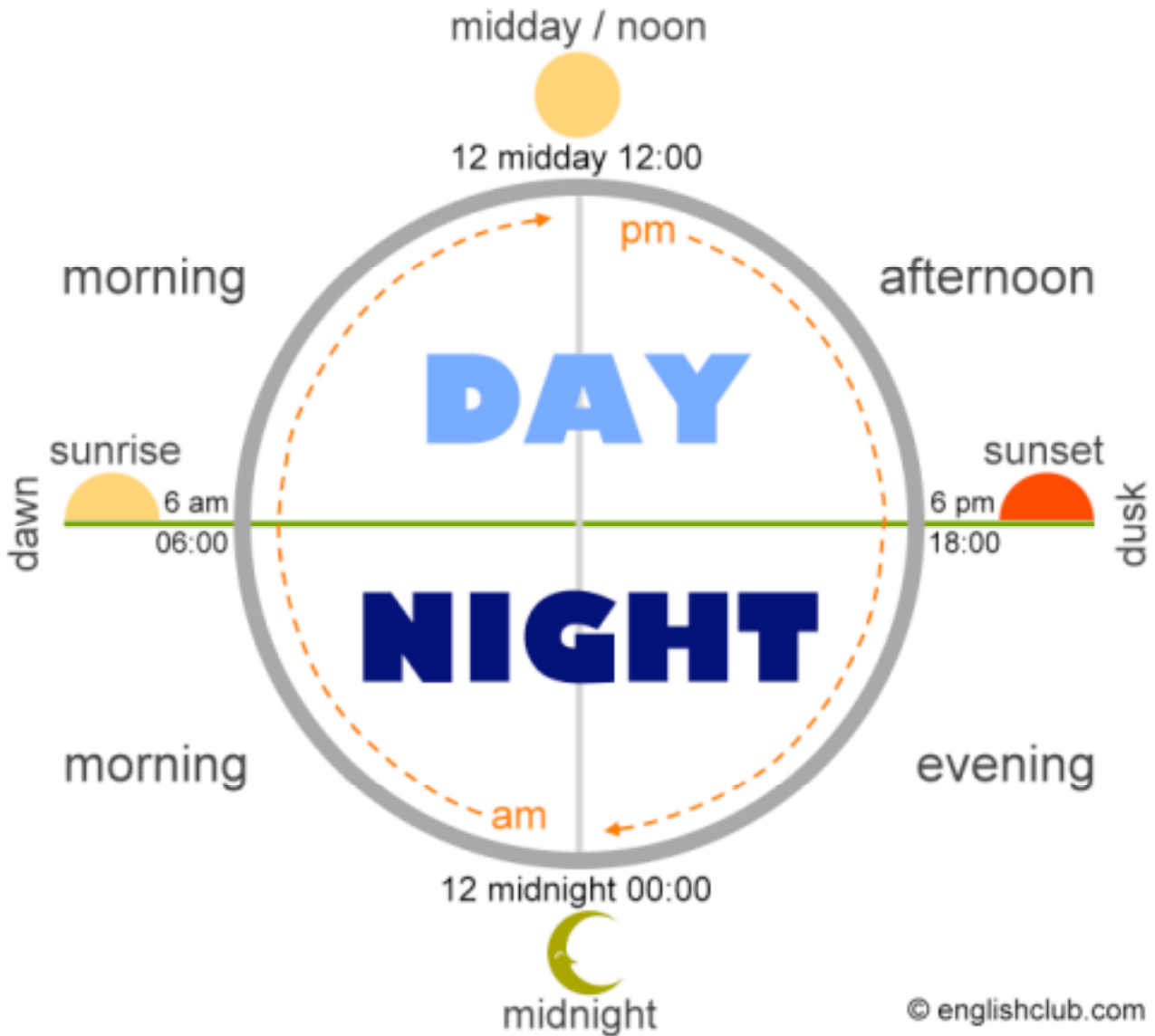
- together with** • I'd like chicken please, together with vegetables.
- up against** • We are up against a powerful enemy.
- up to** • There was a shop here up to 1990.
- up until** • There was a shop here up until 1990.
- vis-à-vis**
(from French) • I prefer a Jaguar vis-à-vis a BMW.
• I need to speak to you vis-à-vis your homework.
- with reference to** • With reference to your comments, I'll reply soon.
• I am writing with reference to your order.
- with regard to** • I'd like to speak to you with regard to your work.

Some Prepositions of Place



There is a cup **on** the table.
The helicopter hovered **above** the house.
The police placed a sheet **over** the body.
He stood **in front of** the door and rang the bell.
Ram sat **beside** Tara in the cinema.
A small stream runs **below** that bridge.
He put the key **under** the doormat.
He put his hands **behind** his back.

Some Prepositions of Time



He has coffee **in** the morning, tea **in** the afternoon and wine **in** the evening.

I work **during** the morning/afternoon/evening/day/night.

Let's meet **at** 6pm.

The clock strikes twelve **at** midday/noon/midnight.

The condemned man was shot **at** sunrise/dawn.

The street lights come on **at** sunset/dusk.

We can see the stars **at** night.

Notes:

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