Grammar Lesson 3: Preposition

1. There is a cow *in* the field. (The word *in* shows the relation between 2 things –Cow and field)
2. He is fond *of* tea. (the word *of* shows the relation between the attribute expressed by the adjective fond and tea)
3. The cat jumped *off* the chair (the word *off* shows the relation between the action expressed by verb jumped and the chair)

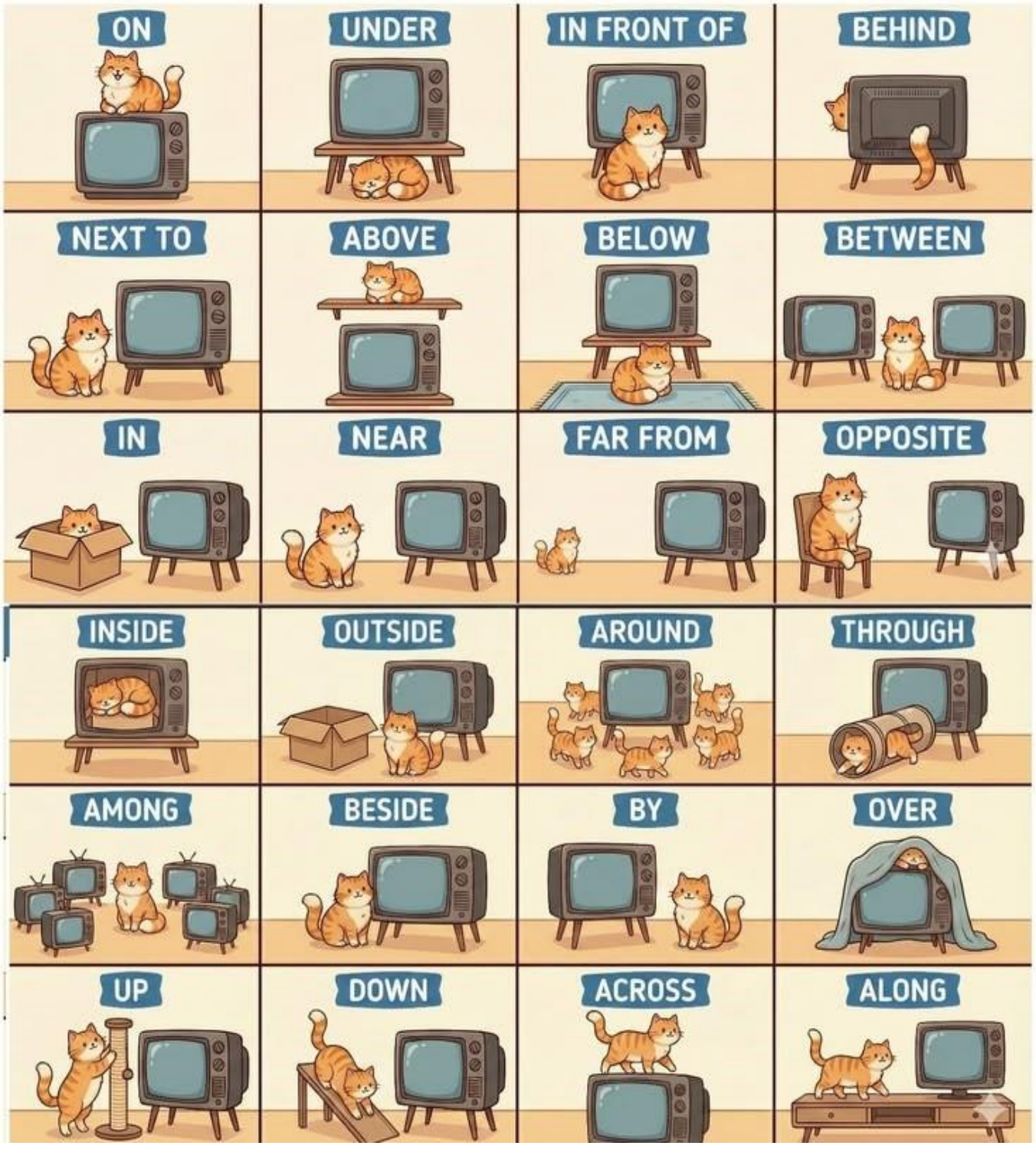
The word Preposition means "That which is placed before "

What is a Preposition?

A preposition is a word placed before a noun or a pronoun (object) to show what relation the person or thing denoted by it stands in regards to something else.

Types of preposition

1. **Simple prepositions**: at, by, for, from, in, of, off, on, out, till, up, with, to, into etc.
2. **Compound Prepositions**: which are formed by generally adding a prefix to a simple preposition (a=no or be=by) or by joining two simple words. About, above, across, along, amidst, among, amongst, around, before, behind, below, beneath, beside, between, beyond, inside, outside, underneath, within, without.
3. **Phrase Prepositions**: consists of 2 or more words functioning as single preposition. According to, along with , because of, in case of, in order to, instead of, on account of, owing to, instead of, in spite of, with regard to, in addition to.
4. **Participle Prepositions:** Some verb forms (present participles) are used as prepositions. Barring, concerning, considering, during, notwithstanding, pending, regarding, touching etc.


ON
UNDER
IN FRONT OF
BEHIND
NEXT TO
ABOVE
BELOW
BETWEEN
IN
NEAR
FAR FROM
OPPOSITE
INSIDE
OUTSIDE
AROUND
THROUGH
AMONG
BESIDE
BY
OVER
UP
DOWN
ACROSS
ALONG

AT/ON/IN (Time)

They arrived **at** 5 o'clock.

They arrived **on** Friday.

They arrived **in** October

We use

1.**At** for the time of the day

At 5 o'clock At 11.45 At midnight At lunchtime At Sunset etc.

2.On for days and dates

On Friday/'s On 16 may 2025 on Christmas day on my birthday

3. In for longer periods

In October in 1988 in winter

We say

In the morning/s **but** On Friday Morning/s

In the afternoon/s **but** On Sunday afternoon /s

In the Evening/s **but** on Monday Evening /s

We do not use at/on/in before **last/next/this/every**:

I will see you next **Friday** (not on next Friday)

They got married last **March.**

In a few minutes/ in six months etc.

The train will be leaving **in a few minutes**. (=a few minutes from now)

Andy has gone out. He will be back **in a week** (=a week from now)

She'll be here **in a moment**. (=a moment from now)

You can also say 'in six months' **time,**' or '**in six months**'

They are getting married in 6 months' **time or……. In six months.**

We also use in…. to say how long it takes to do something.

I learnt to drive in four weeks. (=It took me 4 weeks to learn)

On time and in Time

On time= Punctual, not late (opposite of **on time** is **Late**)

The 11.45 train left on time. (= left at 11.45)

Please be on time. Don't be late.

In time =Soon enough

Will you be home **in time for dinner?** (=soon enough for dinner)

I want to be home **in time** to see the game on T.V.

IN/AT/ON (Position 1)

In a room in a building in a garden in a town in a pool in the sea in the city

At the door/bus stop/ the window At reception

On the door/ceiling/floor/the wall/table on her nose on a page on an island

There is no one **in** the room.

Do you know the man standing **at** the door?

I sat **on** the floor.

Compare in and at:

I'll meet you **in** the hotel lobby.

I'll meet you **at** the entrance to the hotel.

Compare in and on:

There is some water **in the bottle.**

There is a label **on the bottle.**

Compare at and on:

There is somebody **at the door.**

There is a notice **on the door.**

IN/AT/ON (Position 2)

We say something/Somebody is:

In a line/in a row/in a queue in bed

In the sky/in the world in the country/in the countryside

In an office/in a department in a photograph/in a picture

In a book / in a paper/in a magazine/in a letter

Who is that woman **in** the photograph?

In the front/in the back of a car.

In the corner of a room.

Have you seen this picture **in** today's newspaper?

The television is in the corner of the room.

On the left/on the right on the left hand side/right hand side

On the ground floor /on the first floor/on the second floor etc.

On a map/on a menu /on a list / on a farm

Have you ever worked on a farm?

On the front/on the back of a letter / piece of paper etc.

I wrote the date on the back of the photograph.

We stopped at a small village on the way to Pune.

At the top(of/)/At the bottom(of)/At the end (of)

At the front/at the back of a building /Theatre / group of people etc.

We were at the back, so we couldn't see very well.

at the corner /on the corner of a street.

There is a postbox at the corner of the street.

IN/AT/ON (Position 3)

In hospital/in prison/in jail

At home/at work/at school/at university /at college

Julia is studying Chemistry at the university.

At a party/at a concert etc.

We say somebody is at an event (at a party/at the meeting /at the wedding)

In and at for buildings

E.g. you can eat in a restaurant or at a restaurant.

You can buy something in a supermarket or at the supermarket.

At the station /at the airport/at somebody's house.

In for villages, towns & cities etc.

Neela's parents live in Chennai.

On a bus/on a train/on a plane/on a ship /on a bike /on a horse **but** in a car/in a taxi.

Jane passed me on her bike.

Mary arrived in a taxi.

<u>TO/INTO</u>

We say go/come/travel etc. to a place or event.

Go to China	go to bed	came to my house
Go back to Italy	go to the bank	to be taken to hospital
Return to London	go to a concert	be sent to prison
Welcome (somebody) to (a place)		drive to the airport

Welcome to our city!

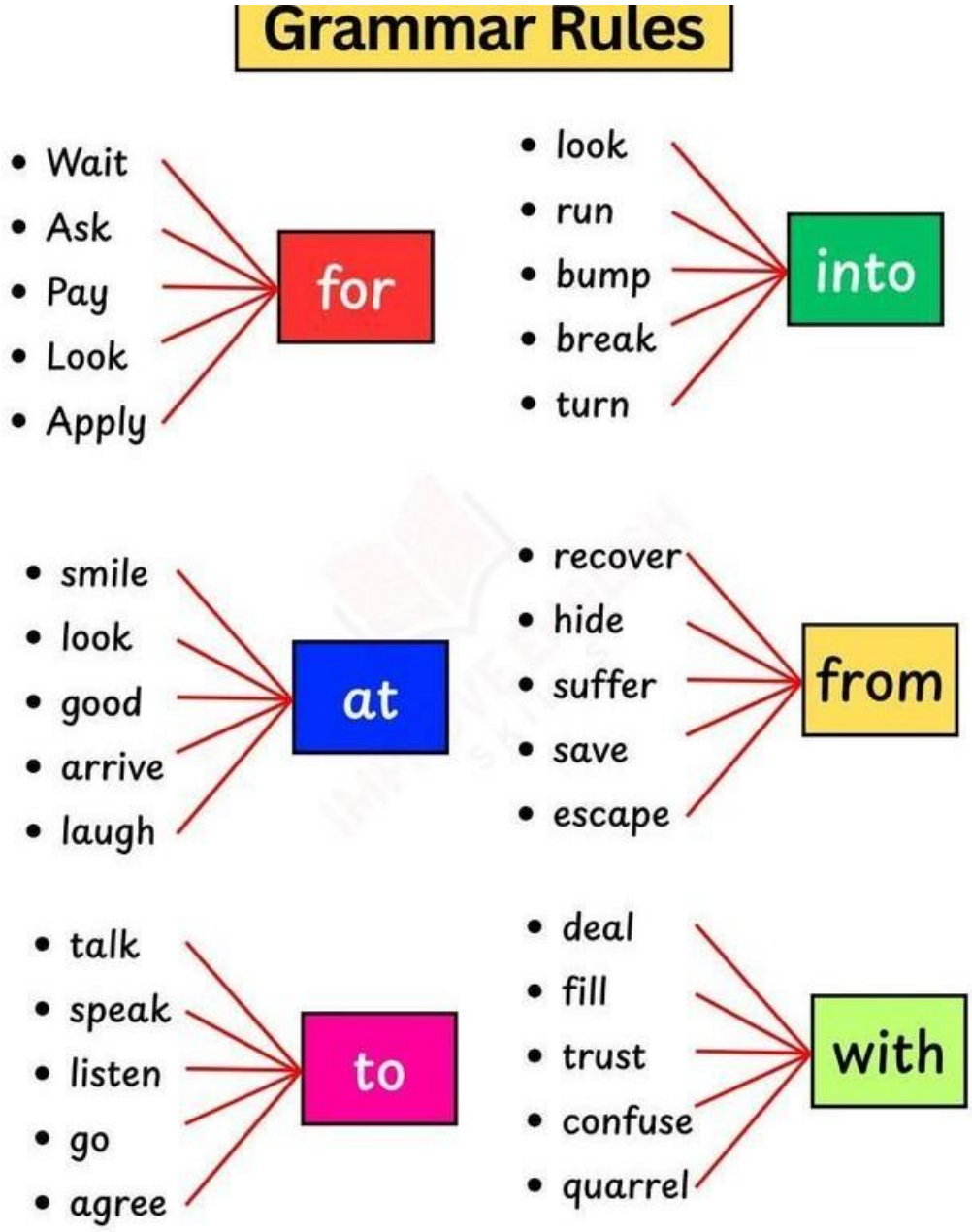
They are going to France.

Can you come to the Party?

Go into, get into……. Etc.=enter (a room /a building/a car etc.)

I went into the room and sat down.

She got into the car and drove away.



Fill in the blanks

1. Sheela sat __ a corner. (in, at, on)
2. Old mother Hubbard, went ___ the cupboard. (in, on, to, for)
3. The lion and the unicorn fought ___the crown. (at, of, for, off)
4. Humpty dumpty sat___ the wall. (in, on, at, by)
5. She sat __ the sofa. (in, on, at, by)
6. We will meet _____ 4 pm. (in, on, at, by)
7. The cat hid_____ the bed. (over, by, in, under)
8. The bus went _____the tunnel. (into, under, though, in)
9. He is fond ____ music. (off, of, for)
10. This gift is ___ you. (to, of, for)

Some Rules for Prepositions:

- A preposition always has an object (a noun or pronoun).
- Do not use extra prepositions, e.g., say "enter the room," not "enter into the room."
- A sentence can end with a preposition in informal English, e.g., "Who are you talking **to**?"

In to for on on at under through of for