

Positively Passionate ABOUT Prepositions

WABE 2026

Presenters:

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Meaning	Some questions to ask	Examples
Time	When? How long?	I walked the dog <u>after lunch</u> . We moved to Bellingham <u>in 2012</u> . They played chess <u>for 2 hours</u> .
Place	Where? Where to/from? How far?	The conference is <u>in Yakima</u> . Transfer the batter <u>into the cake pan</u> . Caleb ran <u>for 3 miles</u> .
Manner	How? By what means?	We came to Yakima <u>by car</u> . I buttered the toast <u>with a knife</u> .
Accompaniment	Who/what with? And who/what else?	I went to the movie <u>with my friend</u> . We came to WABE <u>with several other colleagues</u> .
Matter	What about?	Many people are worried <u>about climate change</u> . They were asked <u>about their experience</u> .
Cause	Why?	<u>Because of the rock slide</u> , a part of I-5 was closed for several weeks.

(Adapted from Humphrey et al, (2012) *Grammar and Meaning* 2nd edition. PETAA.)

Preposition	Space	Time	Degree
At	Intersection: meet <i>at</i> the corner General area: meet <i>at</i> the theatre.	It rains <i>at</i> night there.	Water freezes <i>at</i> 0°C.
Before	In front of: He stood <i>before</i> us.	Earlier than: <i>before</i> 1960. <i>Before they had met.</i>	
By	Nearness: chair <i>by</i> the desk	No later than: by 5pm	Reduplication: little <i>by</i> little, inch <i>by</i> inch
For	Goal: set out <i>for</i> Alaska Run <i>for</i> 7 miles	Duration: <i>for</i> six years	<i>Exchange</i> : buy it <i>for</i> \$5

For fun!

Dad follows literal instructions from his kids to make a PB&J sandwich:

<https://shorturl.at/Nm3Ta>