

Prepositions

TO La preposizione *to* è utilizzata per esprimere movimento **verso** un luogo; *a*

I go to work/school/bed/church. (exception: I go home)

I write to a friend. (write to)

I listen to the radio. (listen to)

I work from 9 to 5.

I go to the mountains every weekend.

I get to work by car.

I returned to Italy yesterday.

I'm looking forward to seeing you/hearing from you soon.

I'm looking forward to meeting her.

She's married to Tom.

She's speaking to her lawyer.

We have decided against moving to London.

AT *At* è anche spesso tradotta *a*, però **non indica** movimento **verso** un luogo, ma **stato** in luogo.

I'm at work/school/church/home.

I'm looking at a picture. (look at)

I (usually) have lunch at 1 o'clock.

I arrive at the university at 8 a.m. every morning.

She's good at cooking.

He's playing a video game at the moment.

IN *In* vuole dire *dentro, in*; si può riferire alla posizione d'un oggetto oppure a un periodo di tempo.

He's in bed, because he's sick.

I live in Italy.

I live in Turin.

I was born in April.

It's usually cold in winter.

I was born in 1980.

The pen is in the drawer.

The coffee is in the cup.

He arrived in Italy yesterday from the United States.

I work in an office, but I live in a house.

I'm interested in economics.

I'm interested in going to the Picasso exhibit next weekend.

Get in the car!

Have you succeeded in passing the test yet?

The plant is in the corner of the room.

We'll never get there in time for the beginning of the film!

ON *sopra* (con contatto), anche usato per giorni specifici

Gauguin lived on an island.

The book is on the table.

I sleep late on Sundays, but I wake up early on Mondays.

Christmas is on the 25th of December.

I got on the bus and sat down.

I often reflect on the past.

She's speaking on the phone at the moment.

The program(me) is on TV/the radio.

He depends on his parents financially.

The bookstore is on the corner.

The library is on the right/left.

Go straight on!

Keep on smiling (to keep on doing something – to continue doing something)

I went on holiday last month.

I turn on the light when I wake up.

Tim is always either too late or too early...He's never on time!

I put on my jacket before going outside.

I get to school on foot.

Get on with it! (Continue doing it!)

Sara went on a diet to lose weight.

They insisted on paying the bill.

They were really "on the ball" and won the game. (to be "on the ball" – essere sveglio, in gamba)

We congratulated Lisa on passing the exam.

Boston is on the east coast of the United States.

OFF opposite di *on*

I turn off the light before going to bed.

Please, get off the phone!

I took the books off the table.

The stereo was off when I came into the house.

I take off my jacket when I get home.

I must be off. (Devo andare.)

He set off at dawn. (set off –partire, iniziare un viaggio)

The picture fell off the wall.

He lives off his rich wife. (at the expense of)

WITH/WITHOUT *con/senza* (**with non spiega un mezzo, ma un strumento**)

I went on holiday with my friends.

I write with a pen.

Most people eat spaghetti with a fork.

I drink tea with lemon, but without milk.

I can't live with you and I can't live without you.

I had an interesting conversation with my friend yesterday.

Without thinking, I dove into the river yesterday.

He's without a doubt the most irritating person I've ever met!

BY *accanto, entro*, spiega un mezzo, preposizione per il passivo

The book is by Kundera.

The painting is by Picasso.

The music is by Mozart.

The letter was written by my sister.

Stand by me.

The boy is standing by the door (at the moment)

I must finish this job by Friday.

I (usually) get to work by bus.

I keep myself informed by reading a lot.

Sales have increased by 10% this year.

I left the stove on by mistake.

Should I contact you by phone or by e-mail?

By the way... (a proposito....)

Can I pay by credit card?

I learnt the poem by heart. (a memoria)

I ran into a friend in the street by chance. (per caso)

He sent the letter by post /mail.

By then (a quel punto) the film had ended.

OF *di*

I'm thinking of a number from one to ten.

I think of you when I see white roses.

I think of you every day.

Instead of staying home, why don't we go out to dinner?

I'm thinking of going to Spain on holiday.

Of course, I want to go!

He doesn't approve of swearing.
I wouldn't dream of asking them for money.
I'm thinking of buying a new house,
Nobody suspected the general of being a spy.
They accused us of telling lies.
The child is afraid of the dark.

ABOUT *di, circa*

I'm studying about Freud in my general psychology class.
I think about you all day long!
Do you know what I'm talking about?
He's about 30 years old.
How about going to the cinema tonight?
I'm thinking about buying a new house. (I'm thinking of buying a new house)
We talked about going to Spain.

FROM *da*, opposite of *to*

My plane leaves from Milan.
I work from 9 to 5.
Who is this letter from? It's from my sister.
Where are you from? I'm from Milan.
How do I get to the post office from here?
You are different from me. (to be different from)
What prevented you/stopped you from coming to see us?

FOR *per*

The bus for Milan leaves at 7.55.
This letter/package is for you.
I'm waiting for an answer/a friend. (wait for)
I thanked them for helping me.

She's lived in Turin for 20 years.

You must apologize for breaking the window.

Excuse me for phoning you so late.

BETWEEN *tra, fra* (*between* spiega una posizione tra due cose/personone, mentre *among/amoung non spiega una posizione*).

AMONG/AMOUNG

The girl is standing between two boys.

I'll be there between one and two O'clock.

There are many among us that don't agree

The difference between them is remarkable.

He is one student among many.

You need to read between the lines.

BEYOND *oltre* (usato di consueto con espressioni astratte).

An ambitious person tries to go beyond his/her limits

Beyond reality/beyond imagination/beyond reason

UP *su* (opposite of *down*).

The bear climbed up the tree.

I looked up to the sky to see the stars.

I looked up at the sky; it was a clear blue.

He looked up the word in the dictionary to find out what it meant.

She looked up an old friend when she went to New York.

They went up north to Ireland for their vacation.

She looked up to her parents.

Her parents pick her up at school every day.

She grew up in Albany, New York.
 Sue took up a really interesting new hobby.
 Paul set up a website about his paintings.
 It's difficult to keep up with all the work I've got.
 Don't give up! Keep trying...Eventually you'll succeed.
 The children made up a very funny story.
 We arranged to meet David, but he never turned up (he never came)
 John used up all the glue in the house for his science project.
 He stood up to give his speech.
 Could you turn up the heat, please? It's very cold in here.

DOWN *giù* (opposite of *up*).

The bear climbed down the tree.
 I looked down to the ground to see the puddle in front of me.
 I looked down at the ground; it was very muddy.
 I jotted down the definition of the word (to jot down/write down =
 annotarsi qualcosa)
 He looks down on bad manners. (look down on – disprezzare).
 They went down south to Naples on holiday.
 Put down that vase, please, before you break it!
 He always puts her down in front of friends. (put someone down –
 umiliare)
 She sat down next to her friend.
 They were able to put out the fire before the house burnt down.
 The car broke down and I had to phone for help.
 Calm down. There's no point in getting angry.
 Turn down that music, please. I'm trying to read.

OVER *oltre* (ha il concetto di superare qualcosa)

I walk over a bridge to get to work every day.

He has a cloud hanging over him; he's had such bad luck recently.

We looked over the wall to see what was on the other side.

The boy jumped over the puddle so he wouldn't get his shoes wet.

I looked over my notes before the exam. (look over – ripassare)

qualcosa)
I'm slowly getting over the shock. (to get over something- superare

The lesson is over. It's over!

The man told the dog to roll over.

ACROSS *attraverso* (in direzione orizzontale, senza ostacoli)

She walked across the street to get to the other side.

The man looked across the room at the woman.

We agreed across the board. 8across the board – unanimously)

THROUGH *attraverso* (in qualsiasi direzione, con ostacolo)

I can see through the glass, but I can't see through the smoke.

He walked through the puddle and got his shoes wet.

I looked through my papers, but couldn't find my notes.

We drove through a long tunnel to get to the city centre from the
airport.

The dog jumped through a hoop at the circus.

Through/throughout the years/centuries, the pollution has gotten
worse and worse.

ABOVE *sopra* (senza contatto)

Above all, soprattutto

There is a light above the table.

There are clouds above us.

The stars above them were beautiful.

His intellectual ability is above average (sopra la media)

UNDER *sotto*

The dog is sleeping under the table.

I found your paper under my book.

Are you a bit under the weather today? (to be under the weather –
essere giù)

Could you tell me how to get to the underground, please?
(underground – subway, the Tube)

During the war, there was an underground press (stampa clandestine)

He was fined for driving 'under the influence' of alcohol.

Under the circumstances, we had better go.

Do you have the situation under control?

The 'underdog'