**Prepositions—*at, on, in, for, since***

Differentiating between space and time

Explanation

Prepositions are small-but-mighty words that are used to indicate the relationships between objects and their locations. Two of the most common prepositional relationships are spatial (related to space), and temporal (related to time). A preposition is followed by a noun, but **never** followed by a verb.

Most prepositions have a variety of functions, making it a challenge to learn how to properly use them. Here are some general guidelines on how to use prepositions related to space and time.

Examples

**Place:** Use “at” with specific addresses, “on” with street names, and “in” with land areas (towns, counties, states etc.).

The library is *at* 2341 North 34th Street.

Turn *on* 34th Street.

I live *in* Pierce County, *in* Washington, *in* the United States.

**Time (existential):** Use “at” for specific times, “on” for days and dates, and “in” for nonspecific times.

I go to bed *at* 10 pm.

They are flying to Europe *on* Tuesday.

She plants sweet peas *in* the spring.

**Time (duration):** Use “for” to indicate how long something occurred, and “since” to indicate from what time something has occurred.

I laughed *for* days.

It has been ages *since* Ilaughed.

Exercises *Choose the correct prepositions to fill in the blanks below.*

Letters regarding the current role of Germany within the EU can be addressed to Chancellor Merkel, whose office is located within the Federal Chancellery building\_\_\_\_1 Willi Brandt Avenue\_\_\_\_Berlin.

The whole world has been turned upside-down \_\_\_\_\_\_ the coronavirus started spreading.