



RLO 21 How to use the basic English prepositions
- Student Notes -

Contents :

- rlo21.1 Introduction :** raising awareness, how do you use these prepositions, let's look at some examples
- rlo21.2 Making a Puzzle :** if we focus on a simple straight line, then we can think more easily which preposition is best
- rlo21.3 Reflecting on Solutions :** compare your choice with other possible solutions – in pairs or small groups
- rlo21.4 Writing Practice :** now you have a clearer view, please try writing a distinct short essay on each preposition

In this unit, you will learn the differences in meaning of a few basic prepositions in English. This unit can be studied independently of any other units, and may take 10 ~ 20 minutes of your time. If a teacher can help you, then 20 minutes will be ideal, and for you to practice writing which can be assessed by the teacher, then 90 minutes may be needed.

See the Kawachi Model for sequencing of related units.
RLO 18 ~ RLO 20 could be done before this unit RLO 21.

After completing this unit, you will be able to use -
in a grammatically correct way - the basic English prepositions.

rlo21.1 Introduction :

Which do you like better – “Here is a present to you”
or “Here is a present for you” Why ?
When we have two nouns, or two ideas, such as a BUS and LONDON, then they can be related to each other using a preposition ; for example, “Here is the bus for London”
Maybe at one hour later, this same BUS is leaving LONDON and we can say “This is the bus from London”. These little prepositions tell us the relationship between the two things – in space (x, y, and z) and in time (t) dimensions.

Thinking in four dimensions (x, y, z, and t) can be confusing.
Let's fix in time one object or idea,
such as TIREDNESS or BEING-TIRED

“I am tired now” is on the time dimension t,
and tells us that at this time now there is tiredness

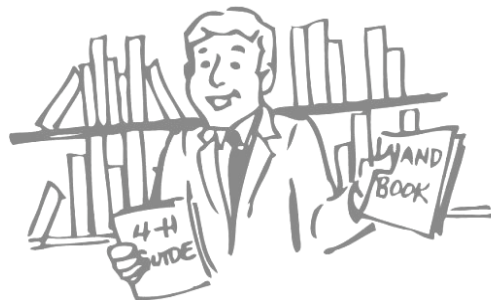
Let's choose another idea next which could occur at any time
such as GOLF.

How many ways can we relate these two ideas together in time ?
Only five ? Fifty ? More than five hundred ways / prepositions ?

... a present to you



/ a present for you



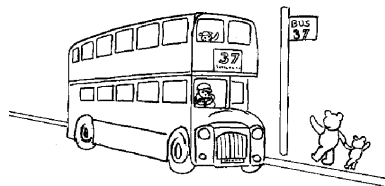
This book is interesting to me
/ interesting for me

Here is the London bus

? the bus of London

? it is from London

? for London



rlo21.2 Making a Puzzle :

According to Latin, there are six cases for a noun – one case takes OF, another TO or FOR, and another BY, WITH or FROM.

If we draw a straight line to represent time t, and put TIREDNESS in the middle indicating time now, then there are six positions along this line.

- (a) some long time ago
- (b) immediately before now
- (c) now
- (d) soon, or very probably
- (e) much later, or only possibly, and
- (f) maybe never

We have six short sentences relating TIREDNESS and GOLF :-

- 1 I am tired to golf
- 2 I am tired of golf
- 3 I am tired from golf
- 4 I am tired for golf
- 5 I am tired by golf
- 6 I am tired with golf

Can you put each number (1 ~ 6) on the time-line (a ~ f) ?
(Spend a few minutes to decide your solution)



rlo21.3 Reflecting on Solutions :

After you have put each number (1 ~ 6) on the time-line (a ~ f), then check your puzzle solution with another person.

Do you agree ? Which do you think are certainly correct, and which are you uncertain about ?

Look slowly and carefully through the slides for the solution, and read through the Teaching Guide. The Teaching Guide will give you some more examples to help you understand.

Can you think of any more examples how to use these basic prepositions (of, to, for, by, with, and from) ? Write some examples in your notebook.

Share and discuss these with another person.

rlo21.4 Follow-up Writing Practice :

Choose any one or two of the following six titles, and write a few sentences about each (-- a very short essay only !). Do not use the preposition in your sentences : for instance, if you choose (b) then don't write "Many foreigners come to Japan". Find other words to say this, such as "Many foreigners are visiting Japan".

- (a) Internationalization of Japan
- (b) Internationalization to Japan
- (c) Internationalization for Japan
- (d) Internationalization by Japan
- (e) Internationalization with Japan
- (f) Internationalization from Japan

If you have time, challenge writing all six !

Please read aloud your sentences for any one of them

- don't tell us which (a or b or c ...) (of, to, for ...) – we will listen and try to guess your title.

If we can guess correctly, this means your writing was very good - Well done !