

Prepositions and postpositions, together called adpositions, are a class of words that express spatial or temporal relations (in, under, towards, before) or marking various semantic roles (of, for) ... English has prepositions rather than postpositions – words such as in, under and of precede their objects, as in in England, under the table, of Jane." [Prepositions and postposition (en.wikipedia)]https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Preposition_and_postposition

"This is a **list of English prepositions**. In English, some prepositions are short, mostly containing six letters or fewer. There are, however, many multi-word prepositions. Throughout the history of the English language, new prepositions have come into use, old ones have fallen out of use, and the meanings of existing prepositions have changed..." [List of English prepositions (en.wikipedia)] (2015/04/30) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_English_prepositions

"**The English prepositions**, for example, from being used in so many ways and in combination with so many verbs, have acquired not so much a number of meanings as a body of meaning continuous in several dimensions; a tool-like quality, at once thin, easy to the hand, and weighty, which a mere statment of their variety does not convey. In a sense all words have a body of this sort; none can be reduced to a finite number of points..." (William Empson, 7 Types of Ambiguity, p.4 (1932, 1947))

"The subject of **prepositions in Basic English** is often asked. Here is a brief summary of what Ogden and others have said on the subject. Ogden calls his list of 21 prepositions, "directives" or "directives". These when combined with the 16 verbs named "operators". Operators can say hundreds of action words of standard English." [http://ogden.basic-english.org/preposition.html] "... a group of 20, readily recognized as the prepositions which Ogden prefers to call directives, and which, you have been using widely already in the analysis of full verbs. These are **the troublemakers to foreigners learning English**. There are similar troubles in other languages, as Bodmer, adopting Ogden's term, points out:

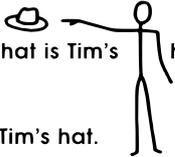
First Steps in Reading English

絵で読む英語

pp. 10-11

This is a hat.  This is a hat. 

This is a hat.  This is a hat. 

This hat is Tim's hat.  This hat is Ann's hat. 

It is Tim's hat.  It is Ann's hat. 

Tim's name is in it.  Ann's name is in it. 

This is a hat and this is a hand.  and  This is a hand and this is a hat. 

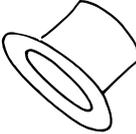
The hat is in the hand.  The hand is in the hat. 

It is in the hand.  It is in the hat. 

That hand is in a hat.  That hat is in a hand. 

p. 29

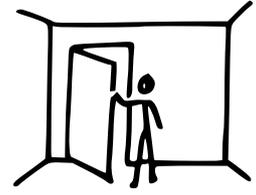
This is a hat. A rat is in it. 

This is the hat. 

This is the rat. It is in the air. 

pp. 48,54-55,75

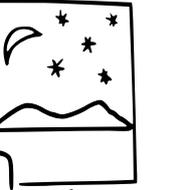
This is Mr. Smith's room.



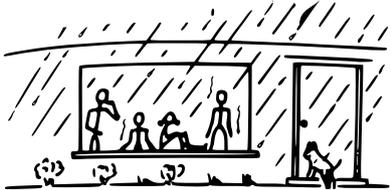
He is in his room.
He is at the door.
His hand is on the door.

This is a woman. She is at a window. 

Now another woman is with her. The two women are at the window. 

A man is at that other window. 

There is the moon and there are some stars. 

This man is at his window. The man and the women are at their windows. Those two women are at their window. 

The dog is at the door. He is not inside the room. He is wet. He is in the rain.

"The most capricious words in a language like our own are particles, especially those classified as directives (to, with, for, etc.) and the link words or conjunctions (and, because, though, etc.) . . . Any particle has a characteristic meaning in the sense that we can use it in a large class of situations to signify the same kind of relationship." Bodmer has followed Ogden here and in the later diagrams for displaying the characteristic meaning of common directives. Ogden calls it **the root sense**." [Quoted On-line from I.A. Richards' Learning Basic English pp28-29] [Quoted On-line from I.A. Richards' Learning Basic English pp28-29] <http://ogden.basic-english.org/texts/lbe2c.html#prep27>

