

Prepositions

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A preposition links a noun / phase to the rest of the sentence. Prepositional phrases can hold various positions in a sentence, can be removed from a sentence without changing the meaning.

Locative Prepositions

Locative prepositions indicate position and direction. [See also, prepositions of location pdf](#)

di, ke, and dari

1. **di** (in, at, on) – indicates that the action occurs in the place indicated by the following noun; there is no movement. It can be used to refer to time.
2. **ke** (to) – indicates movement toward a place. It is often coupled with the word *pergi* (go).
3. **dari** (from) – indicates movement from or the origin of something.

Dia tinggal di desa kecil.	He lives in a small village.
Dia pergi ke kota.	He went to the city.
Dia berangkat dari kota.	He departed (from) the city.

Locative Nouns

Meaning: The locative prepositions doesn't convey any further detail on how the object is being placed, whether it's in front, inside, etc. To put additional detail, we put locative nouns after the locative prepositions. Below is a sample list of locative nouns:

atas	top, above	tepi	edge	dalam	inside
depan	front	seberang	other side/across	luar	outside
samping	side	bawah	beneath, under	belakang	back
antara	between	muka	front	sebelah	side

Examples:

Dia muncul dari belakang rumah.	She appeared from behind the house.
Di sebelah rumah ada pohon mangga.	At the side of the house there is a mango tree.
Mereka berenang ke seberang sungai.	They swam to the other side of the river.

pada* / kepada *more on pada below!

The preposition **pada** is used with time phrases.
The preposition **kepada** is used with a pronoun or name.

Examples:

Saya pergi ke bioskop pada hari Sabtu.	I went to the cinema on Saturday.
Pada jam tiga saya harus naik bis.	At three o'clock I have to catch the bus.
Mereka mengirim uang kepada Ani.	They sent money to Ani.

Sini, Sana, and Situ Meaning: Locative pronouns *sini* (here - near speaker), *sana* (there - far off) and *situ* (there - not far off) indicate position in relation to the speaker. **Application:** The combination of the three locative prepositions with these pronouns produces a nine-way distinction of location and direction.

di sini	(at) here	di sana	(at) there
ke situ	to there(close)	ke sini	to here
dari sana	from there(far)	dari situ	from there(not far)

Mana Meaning: where. **Application:** the three locative prepositions combine with 'mana'

ke mana	(to) where
di mana	where (at)
dari mana	from where

Other Prepositions that match in English

akibat	due to	sebab	because of
buat	for	sebagai	as
kecuali	except for	sejak	since
lewat	via	sekeliling	around
melalui	through	sekitar	approx
mengenai	about	sepanjang	along
menuju	towards	seperti	like/for example
menurut	according to	selain	besides
sama	with (colq)	tanpa	without
		tentang	about

selama Meaning: for. **Application:** used when referring to a length of time.

Kami sudah tinggal di Cairns selama 8 tahun.	We've lived in Cairns for 8 years.
Kita harus berlatih selama 100 jam sebelum ikuti tes mengemudi.	You have to practice for 100 hours before taking the driving test.
Saya berenang selama 3 jam, aduh capek!	I swam for 3 hours, so tired!

Note: There is not always a one to one correspondence between Indonesian and English prepositions.

terhadap with / toward	sampai until / to
Susan jengkel terhadap adiknya.	Susan is annoyed with her younger sibling.
Kebaikan mereka terhadap saya luar biasa.	Their kindness towards me was amazing.
Dia ikut dari jam dua sampai jam tiga.	She joined from 2 o'clock to 3 o'clock.
Undangannya jam enam sampai selesai.	The invitation is from 6 o'clock until finished.

sampai dengan is often used with time:

Ulangan ini berlangsung dari jam 1 **sampai dengan** jam 3

Prepositions with specific verbs/adjectives

Some adjectives have a corresponding preposition. Verbs which are not followed by an object (usually *ber-*verbs, base verbs) will usually be followed by a prepositional phrase. See [ber_verbs_prepositions pdf](#). These do not correlate with English prepositions.

pada Examples:

Dia **takut pada** anjing.

Dia **tergantug pada** bantuan temannya.

Dia **kagum pada** Jepang.

Dia **curiga pada** orang itu.

She is scared of dogs

She depends on the help of her friends.

He admires Japan.

He is suspicious of that person.

Saya **setuju pada** keputusan ini.

I agree with this decision.

akan Examples:

Kami **sadar akan** hal itu.

Dia **paham akan** soal hukum.

Hadi **malu akan** masa lalunya.

We are aware of that matter.

She understands legal issues.

Hadi is ashamed of his past.

dengan usually means 'with' but see other meanings below:

Saya **setuju dengan** Bu Nur.

Kamar itu **penuh dengan** tamu.

Indonesia **kaya dengan** gas alam.

I agree with Bu Nur.

That room is full of guests.

Indonesian is rich in natural gas.

Others examples:

berbeda dengan (different from)

terkenal dengan (well-known for)

biasa dengan (used to)

sesuai dengan (suited to, suitable for)

atas. Examples:

Saya **bertanggung jawab atas** proyek ini.

Dia **berterima kasih atas** bantuan Erna.

Kami **minta maaf atas** kesalahan kita itu.

Dia **berduka cita atas** kehilangan anaknya.

I'm responsible for this project.

He is grateful for Erna's help.

We apologise for that mistake of ours.

She grieved over the loss of her child.