ESL TUTORS' WORKSHOP # 4 – PREPOSITIONS

OUTLINE:

1. What are the basic parts of speech?
2. What is a preposition?
3. Why are they so difficult to learn in English? (no rules/verb/noun+prep. varies)
4. How can I avoid using a preposition in a sentence if I don’t know it? (“trick”)
5. Focus on “in/in the/on/at/0” (there are some “rules” that can be helpful)

1. BASIC PARTS OF SPEECH:

- ask them if they are familiar with the English terms and ask them to tell you what they mean (not only if they know what it is):
  Noun
  Verb
  Adjective
  Adverb
  Preposition
  Article

2. “PRE”+ “POSITION”: it tells the position of something
- ask the student to give lots of examples (in, on, at, behind, in front of, above, below, beside, along, under, through, past, etc.)

- think of a beehive and the sentence “The bee flew ___________ the beehive”. (any word that fits into this blank is a preposition)
- they can also include words that are not as obviously viewed as a "position" (of, from, about, for, with, etc.), which can be confusing!

3. They are so difficult to learn because:
   a. There are not many clearly defined rules (or you might say there are too many...meaning that every situation has a different rule!)
   Example: cities = in // other places might be "in" or "at"
   b. Many words in English are always followed by a preposition and it varies so much too!

Listen + to    Prepare + for    Give + up
Think + about  Get married + to  Give + in
Vote + for     Deal + with     Give + away
Believe + in   Break + up      Give + to
Depend + on    Run + into      etc.!!!!!!!!!

*really, there are no RULES, but some kinds of "guidelines" or logical ways of guessing which may work or may not (for example, students usually want to say "get married with someone" and it makes sense, but it's not correct, so they just have to memorize the correct answer...it is logical in a way, but so is "with", so it's confusing!!!!

4. To "solve" this problem (above), there are a few things you can do:
   a. Just plod along and memorize them as much as you can by practice with a lot of speaking, writing, and listening, etc.....a very slow process....
   b. Do that and ALSO learn a few basic guidelines that do exist about some of the prepositions (see examples from this packet/ask Denise)
   c. Do both of those things, but IF IN DOUBT and you have to choose something (you have no choice!), SUBSTITUTE THE WORD "BECAUSE" INTO THE SENTENCE AND AVOID THE PREPOSITION!!!!!

Example: I carved my name into the rock.
Change: I carved my name BECAUSE I wanted people to see it in the rock.
Example: They wandered around the countryside near their house.
Change: They wandered BECAUSE they wanted to enjoy the countryside near their house.
Example: They got married to each other last year.
Change: They got married, BECAUSE they loved each other, last year.
Example: We voted for Obama in the last election.
Change: We voted BECAUSE there was an election and our choice was Obama.
Example: He cheated on his girlfriend so many times.
Change: He cheated, BECAUSE he was interested in another girl, so many times.
Example: I bet on a horse, but I lost my money.
Change: I bet BECAUSE I thought the race horse would win the race, but I lost my money.

BUT: It’s not always possible (like with 2 word verbs/idioms).
Example: I gave up smoking last week.
I gave BECAUSE..... (doesn’t make any sense...you NEED “up”))
Example: I ran into my friend downtown.
Change: I ran BECAUSE.....

5. FOCUSING ON: (THERE ARE SOME “RULES” THAT CAN BE VERY HELPFUL):
A. Have them guess the answers to the practice sheet (1) (with the sentence “It happened____”) 

B. Talk about whether the following have more of a feeling of a “POINT IN TIME/EXACT AREA” or more a feeling of “LONGER TIME/ LARGER AREA” 
IN
IN THE
ON
AT
0 (this means no preposition)
C. Look at the practice sheet (with the sentence “It happened_____”) and discuss the answers they would guess according to what they now have discussed about a specific point/area or a longer time/wider area.

D. Look at the “rules” chart (2) and discuss the categories, especially the “0” category (when no preposition is used).

E. Discuss the difference between two sentences:
   a. I work at the supermarket.
   b. I went to the supermarket.

   a. I live on Main Street
   b. I drove to Main Street
   c. I drove on Main Street

   a. I rented an apartment in Sao Paolo.
   b. I flew to Sao Paolo.
   c. I walked to Sao Paolo
   d. I walked in Sao Paolo

F. Look at the chart with “rules” about moving verbs with places (3)
   TO
   TO THE *discuss the use of “to + the” (story about a town)
   0 (means no preposition) *discuss no preposition (reasons are the same as non-moving verbs)

G. Practice thinking about MOVING and NON-MOVING verbs (remember, this rule applies to places only, not times)

*sometimes verbs can be both

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MOVING</th>
<th>NON-MOVING</th>
<th>BOTH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Go</td>
<td>laugh</td>
<td>drive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>come</td>
<td>Work</td>
<td>swim</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>sit</td>
<td>fly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>sleep</td>
<td>travel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>read</td>
<td>walk</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*arrive?
*Look at the practice sheet (4) to think about making different kinds of sentences with different meanings depending on the kind of verb you use.

TO IN (THE)
TO THE ON
0 (this means no preposition) AT
0

H. Have them do a practice paragraph (5) with both moving and non-moving verbs to seal what has been learned.
PREPOSITIONS:

Choose: AT - ON - IN - IN THE - 0

1 ___ Monday 15 ___ Davie Street
2 ___ afternoon 16 ___ 669 Davie St.
3 ___ Monday afternoon 17 ___ Seoul
4 ___ today 18 ___ Kazakhstan
5 ___ 7:15 19 ___ downtown
6 ___ May 20 ___ school
7 ___ May 27 21 ___ your house
8 ___ May 27, 1999 22 ___ home
9 ___ 1999 23 ___ there
10 ___ noon 24 ___ Von's (supermarket)
11 ___ morning
12 ___ yesterday morning
13 ___ last Sunday
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AT</th>
<th>ON</th>
<th>IN</th>
<th>IN THE</th>
<th>downtown</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>669 Davie Street</td>
<td>Davie Street</td>
<td>Vancouver</td>
<td>West/East End</td>
<td>every day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>noon</td>
<td>Monday(s)</td>
<td>morning</td>
<td>today</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>midnight</td>
<td>Tuesday, etc.</td>
<td>afternoon</td>
<td>yesterday</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>night</td>
<td>Monday morning</td>
<td>evening</td>
<td>this morning</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:30</td>
<td>Monday afternoon</td>
<td>this afternoon</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:15</td>
<td>Monday evening</td>
<td>this evening</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>May 22, 1974</td>
<td>morning</td>
<td>yesterday</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>June 16, 1975</td>
<td>last night</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>September 16</td>
<td>last weekend</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>May</td>
<td>morning</td>
<td>last Sunday</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>June</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sept.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1974</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1975</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>669 Davie Street</td>
<td>Davie Street</td>
<td>Vancouver</td>
<td>West/East End</td>
<td>downtown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eaton's</td>
<td>a store</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.P. Air</td>
<td>an office</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B.C. Tel</td>
<td>a supermarket</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safeway</td>
<td>a school</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V.C.C.</td>
<td>a hospital</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Paul's Hospital</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Directions:** Fill in the blanks with one of the prepositions above where necessary.

**E.g.** 1. Chris and Sassa live in North Vancouver.

2. Rosa works ______ Safeway.

3. She works ______ Denny's Restaurant, ______ West End.

4. I go to school ______ V.C.C. ______

5. Maria came to Canada ______ January of this year.

6. We eat lunch ______ noon.

7. Is V.C.C. ______ 2750 Oak Street?
Structure
Prepositions
Time and Location

9. I was born ________ Hungary.
10. I was born ________ July 31, 1950.
11. I was born ________ July.
12. I was born ________ 1950.
13. She begins school ________ 6:45 ________ evening.
14. ________ Mondays, I am tired.
15. I eat rice ________ every day.
16. I'd like to eat ________ a restaurant ________ East End.
17. I will drive to work ________ today.
18. Did you phone me ________ last night?
19. Where did you go ________ last weekend?
20. I start work ________ 8:30 ________ morning.
**Structure**

**Prepositions**
(with go and come)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>no article</th>
<th>to only</th>
<th>to the</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>home</td>
<td>bed</td>
<td>bank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>downtown</td>
<td>jail</td>
<td>supermarket</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>abroad</td>
<td>church</td>
<td>park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>overseas</td>
<td>school</td>
<td>store</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>here</td>
<td>work</td>
<td>specific mountains, valleys, rivers, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>there</td>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>Philippines, U.S.R.,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>inside</td>
<td>all countries</td>
<td>U.A.R., Ukraine,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>upstairs</td>
<td>except————</td>
<td>Yukon, U.S.A., Northwest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>downstairs</td>
<td></td>
<td>Territories and other plurals.....</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Directions:** Fill in the blanks with prepositions if necessary.

E.g. 1. I'm going _______ home now. (no preposition necessary)

E.g. 2. Sue went to bed at 10:00.

3. We came _______ Canada in 1980.

4. Are you going _______ inside now?

5. Bob comes _______ here every day.

6. Last year I went _______ U.S.A.

7. My father is coming _______ home soon.

8. I'm going _______ bank after school.

9. The children go _______ upstairs at night.

10. Soo Hing went _______ China for a holiday.
MOVING VERBS (list 20):

SENTENCES:
621 East Street:
1.

Home:
2.

Downtown:
3:

There:
4.

Mountains:
5.

Oak Street:
6.

United States:
7.

Bank:
8.

Supermarket
9.

Lake
10.

NON-MOVING VERBS (list 20):

621 East Street:
1.

home:
2.

downtown:
3.

there:
4.

mountains:
5.

Oak Street:
6.

United States:
7.

bank:
8.

supermarket:
9.

lake:
10.
PREPOSITIONS:

I live _____ Young St. Actually, I live _____226 Young Street. It's _____ Korea _____ Pusan City. I love to go _____mountains! I work _____ a university as a teacher. I take the bus _____work _____every day _____8:00am _____morning. My boss lives _____U.S., but he also has a house _____here. He always goes _____ overseas on the weekend. _____ last Saturday, I went _____park. Sometimes I go _____library or _____bank. _____ this weekend, I'm going to meet my friend _____my house. I said, "Come _____home with me and relax _____ there." _____ that night, we are going to go _____ downtown and when we arrive _____ the movie theater, we'll talk about my birthday. It's _____ July. It's _____ Sunday. Actually, it's _____ Sunday, July 6th. Well, it's _____ Sunday, July 6th, 2004. Oh, I have to say good-bye because I don't want to go _____bed _____ tonight _____ midnight! I love to write _____ night. _____ this evening, I am enjoying myself, but it's not good to stay up too late _____ evening!
I was born ___July. Well, ___July 10th, 1988. I'll tell you about the day I traveled ___Taipei for the first time by train. I live ___U.S.A. Actually, I live ___L.A. Well, I really live ___Fremont Street. Specifically, I live ___2275 Fremont St. I love studying ___CalstateLA! I sit ___my class and think about what it would be like to live ___Taipei. Well, the day I arrived ___the airport ___Taipei, I saw my friend waiting for me ___the seating area inside the airport. Tran ___my friend and told her I wanted to go ___home right away. I mean ___house (my friend's). She told me that she could take me ___downtown first, but I said I was too tired to go ___there now. We left the airport ___7:30 and drove ___home ___night (___midnight). I told her I wanted to get up ___7:30 ___morning and ___8:00am ___the next morning. ___the next day ___library ___Taipei, I read a book about mountains. I wanted to go ___mountains and I wanted to relax ___beach. We did and it was wonderful!
Structure

Prepositions/Question-Words

Directions: Make a question and ask your partner.

E.g. 1. Where were you born? (city, country)
     I was born in Tokyo, Japan.

2. _______ were you born? (date)

3. _______ did you come to Canada? (month, year)

4. _______ do you live? (address, city)

5. _______ is your house? (street)

6. _______ do you work now? (place: e.g. factory, restaurant, etc.)

7. _______ did you work before? (place)

8. _______ do you start work every day? (time: morning, afternoon, evening)

9. _______ do you finish work? (time: morning, afternoon, evening)

10. _______ do you do at night? (read, watch T.V., etc.)
Prepositions and Adverbial Particles

5. I bought this hat — fifty pence.
6. He hasn’t been here — Monday.
7. Our cat was bitten — a dog.
8. My home is — London, but I was born — Lynton, a small village — Devonshire.
9. Put your books — the table.
10. You may write — pencil.
11. There’s no bus; we’ll have to go — foot.
12. We went — the seaside — car.
13. Get — the bus here, and get off — the third stop.
14. Many planes fly — the Atlantic nowadays.
15. We’ve been waiting — over an hour.
16. I’ll call — you — a more convenient time.
17. Hold it carefully — your thumb and first finger.
18. I couldn’t hear what they were talking —
19. A girl — blue eyes has just gone — the door.
20. Here’s a present — you; don’t forget it and go home — it.
21. The teacher was sitting — a desk — the class.
22. Him was a blackboard.
23. As he was coming — me, he threw some orange-peel — the fence — his way — the garden.
24. They were standing — the two houses.
25. We had to go — the hill — a little house — the top.
26. She was looking — the window — the busy street.
27. We walked — the main road, turned left — the railway station, and went as far as the third turning — the right.
29. You can use my knife to cut —
30. The stream ran — a little tunnel — the roadway.
31. He spoke — me — his hands — his pockets.
32. I walked — one end of the street — the other.
33. You can reach the station — bus — ten minutes.
34. The pictures will be — show — one week longer.
35. I’m bringing an old book — leather covers — you — the evening — dinner.
36. Don’t look — me like that!
37. A brick has fallen — the well and knocked the bucket — the rope.

38. I must look — the postcard I got — my teacher last week.
39. Most children remain — school — the ages of six and sixteen.
40. The first space vehicle travelled — the world hundreds of times — a few weeks.
41. I fell — a rock when I was climbing — a mountain last week.
42. It’s farther than I thought; it’s — ten kilometres — the shortest route.
43. Switzerland lies — Germany, France and Italy.
44. I’m staying — friends not far — the station.
45. Please come — me — the theatre tonight.
46. Who did you give the money —?
47. Children — four years — age do not often go — school.
48. My school was founded — Edward VI — 1553.
49. Come and sit — this sunshade — a comfortable deck-chair.
50. Do you want to speak — me — anything?
51. There’s a knock — the door. Who can be calling — us — this late hour?
52. Don’t go out — the rain — a hat.
53. I like to smoke a cigarette and listen — the radio — half an hour or so — dinner.
54. The cat is hiding — us — the table.
55. I must work hard — history because I’m not very good — it.
56. I wonder if I shall get — my history examination.
57. You can cut the apple — two — this knife.
58. I go — the post office every day — my way — work.
59. Let’s go — a walk — the garden — dinner-time.
60. When we get back — our walk, we’re going to sit — the fire — our books — half an hour.

Adverbial particles combine with verbs even more often than prepositions to form idiomatic compounds. Most of them have the same form as their corresponding prepositions, but the following seven are adverbial only and never used as prepositions:

away, back, out; backward(s), downward(s), forward(s), upward(s).