



英语前置词

楊 崇 光 編

商 务 印 书 馆

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商 务 印 书 館

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內 容 提 要

本书分为两部分。第一部分包括主要前置詞 48 个，按字母排列，詳細介紹了它們的各种意义和用法。每种用法，都有例句。除一般例句外，还有在用法上和其他前置詞加以比較的例句，并加注释，使讀者易于理解掌握。

第二部分为附录，将各个单詞后面配搭的一定前置詞按字母順序編排，使讀者易于查考。

本书可供一般学习英語者参考。

英 语 前 置 詞

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Words Followed By Prepositions

I. MEANINGS AND USES OF THE CHIEF PREPOSITIONS

主要前置詞的意义和用法

1. **About (on + by + out)**——1. 在周圍，在四面八方；——2. 在...的附近；——3. 到处，在各处；——4. 在身边，手头；——5. 大約，差不多，左右；——6. 涉及，关于；——7. 从事于，做；——8. 属于；——9. 将，正要。

1. 在周圍，在四面八方 (around; on every side of). 如：

He had a comforter *about* his neck.

There is a crowd of people *about* him.

比較： { They sat *around* him. (He was surrounded on all sides.)
 { They crowded *about* him. (His back might be to a wall.)

註：*around* 含有周圍的觀念較強，*about* 含有接近的意味較強。

2. 在...的附近 (somewhere near or in; in the immediate neighborhood of). 如：

There is a man *about* the house.

I dropped it somewhere *about* here.

比較： { He lives quite *near* the school.
 { He lives somewhere *about* (or *near*) Hankow.

註：*about* 比 *near* 的意义較不确定，通常可以說作 somewhere *near* ... 却不能說作 quite *about*....

3. 到处，在各处 (over or upon different parts of; here and there in). 如：

After dinner we strolled *about* the town.

He was tired of walking *about* the streets.

4. 在身边，手头 (by or on one's person). 如：

They had little money *about* them.

Every one of them had a watch *about* him.

比較: { Have you any money *about* (or *with*, *on*, *by*) you?
{ Take an umbrella *with* you.

註: 1. *on* 在身上 (on one's person), *by* 在手边 (near enough to be within reach), 常可和 *about* 通用, 但如下的場合, 宜分別地用 *on* 或 *by*. This paper was found *on* his person. I haven't got it *by* me.
2. 表示隨身攜帶的小物, *with* 和 *about* 通用, 但如 umbrella, dictionary 等却不能用 *about*.

5. 大約, 差不多, 左右 (near; not far from;—determining approximately time, size or quantity), 通常指約計的時間、大小或數量。如:

Tomorrow *about* this time I shall be here.

They started *about* four o'clock.

He weighs *about* 200 pounds.

The weasel is *about* the size of a cat.

註: 在美國紐約訂立合同時, *about* 指約計的時間, 通常出入不超過三天 (not more than three days); 指約計的大小或數量, 通常出入不超過百分之十 (not more than ten percent).

6. 涉及, 關於 (concerning; in regard to). 如:

I was speaking to him *about* my plans.

What are you talking *about*?

比較: { I know nothing of the matter. (對這件事我全不知道.)
{ I know nothing *about* the matter. (我不知道這件事的內情.)

註: *about* 所表示的關係, 比 *of* 所表示的要詳細些, 這樣, 將 *of* 加在 know, say, speak, talk 等動詞後面, 表示關於某人或某事物的存在; 將 *about* 放在上列等動詞後面, 却表示關於某人或某事物的詳情。再比較: He spoke *of* you (= He mentioned you). He spoke *about* you (= He said something *about* you).

比較: { Please inform me *concerning* (or *about*) this matter.
 I am at a loss *respecting* (or *about*) his whereabouts.
 They had a warm discussion *regarding* (or *about*) the question.
 There is nothing to complain *about*.

註: *about* 通常虽可和 *concerning*, *respecting*, *regarding* 等相互替用, 但仅有 *about* 能用在它的宾語的后面.

7. 从事于, 做 (*occupied with*). 如:

This is how I go *about* it.

What are you *about* (or at)?

8. 属于 (*appertaining to*). 如:

There is a certain charm *about* that man.

He has something of the scholar *about* him.

比較: { There is something queer *about* him.
 There is something queer *in* him.

註: *in* him 指他的性情 (*in his nature*), *in* 用以表示附属于人或物的內在性質; *about* him 指他的模样 (*in his personal appearance*), *about* 用以表示附属于外部的状态.

9. 将, 正要 (*on the point or verge of*). 如:

He is *about* to speak.

They are *about* to start for Peking.

比較: { I am *about* (or *going*) to learn.
 I am *going* to learn next week.

註: *going* + infinitive 表示最近或很近的将来 (*immediate or near futurity*); *about* + infinitive 却只表示最近的将来, 在它的后面不能用表示时间的副词. 如: I am *about* to learn next week. (誤)

2. **Above (on + by + up)**——1. (位置) 在上面, 高出;——2. 在...的上流, 在...的上手;——3. (等級) 在上, 較高;——4. (数量, 程度等)...以上, 超过...;——5. (品質等) 胜过..., 比...强;——6. 不屑于, 不为...所影响;——7. 难于, ...所不及.

1. (位置) 在上面, 高出 (higher than; projecting from). 如:

A bird flies *above* the wood.

He keeps his head *above* water.

比較: { The sun rises *above* the horizon.
The sun sinks *below* the horizon.

註: *above* 和 *below* 正相反. *below* = lower than.

比較: { The sky *above* us is blotted out by clouds.
The sky *over* us is blotted out by clouds.

註: *over* 表示直上的位置. *above* 仅用于表示位置的高. 参考: The entire second story of a building is *above*, but only a small part of it is directly *over*, one who stands on the ground floor. — Webster's Dictionary of Synonyms.

2. 在...的上流, 在...的上手 (up stream from; higher up than). 如:

There is a waterfall *above* (below) the bridge.

Go to the first house *above* the school.

3. (等級) 在上, 較高 (higher in rank or position than). 如:

He is *above* me in the class.

A captain is *above* a lieutenant.

比較: { In rank he is *over* me.
In rank he is *above* me.

註: *Above* 和 *over* 虽都表示等級在上, 但有直接非直接的分別. *over* 表示直接的关系, *above* 表示非直接的关系. 参考: The rank of ambassador is *above* that of minister, but the English ambassador is not *over* the French minister. — 同前.

4. (数量, 程度等) ...以上, 超过... (higher than in number, quantity, degree, price, etc.). 如:

The number was *above* ten.

He is *above* the middle height.

His voice is heard *above* (louder than) all other sounds.

He traced the origin *above* (earlier than) the third century.

比較: { He must be *above* (or *over*, *more than*) forty.
 { This weighs *above* (or *over*, *more than*) a ton.

註: 在表示數量的場合, *above* 和 *over*, *more than* 通用.

5. (品質等) 勝過... 比...強 (*superior to in excellence, or quality of any kind*). 如:

His executive ability is pre-eminent *above* the rest.

Above all things, try to do your best.

6. 不屑于. 不為...所影響 (*too high-minded to stoop to; superior to the influence of*). 如:

One should not be *above* one's business.

A great man rises *above* vanity.

7. 難于, ...所不及 (*out of the reach of*). 如:

This is *above* (or *beyond*) my comprehension.

His skill is *above* (or *beyond*) all praise.

註: *above* 在這一意義上 = *beyond*. 如: *above or beyond* price, dispute, suspicion, one's capabilities, etc.

3. **Across (on + cross)**——1. 與...交叉, 和...成十字;——2. 從這邊到那邊;——3. 在...對過, 在橫過...處;——4. 在...的兩邊;——

5. 偶然遇着, 忽然想起.

1. 與...交叉, 和...成十字 (*transverse to the length of; forming a cross with*). 如:

He laid the two sticks *across* each other.

The two lines pass *across* each other at right angles.

2. 從這邊到那邊 (*from side to side of*). 如:

They rowed *across* the river.

The light fell *across* the street.

比較: { He went *across* the room. (他在屋里從這一边走到那一邊.)
 { He went *through* the room. (他穿屋而過.)

3. 在...对过, 在...横过...处 (on the other side of; in a direction opposed to the length of). 如:

He lives *across* the street.

My house is *across* (or *beyond*) the river.

註: *beyond* = on the farther side of, 含有远隔的意味.

4. 在...的两边 (on both sides of). 如:

A bridge is laid *across* the river.

He threw the load *across* his shoulder.

比較: { There is a bridge *across* the river.
 { There is a bridge *over* the river.

註: *across* 指桥与河横成十字形 (crosswise of); *over* 指桥屹立在河上 (rising above the surface of).

5. 偶然遇着, 忽然想起 (meet or find by chance, happen to find or meet; occurring to), 通常和动词 come, fall 等連用. 如:

I happened to fall *across* an old friend on the road.

An idea came *across* my mind.

4. **After** (off + 比較級詞尾 -ter)——1. (時間) 在...后, ...以后;
——2. (几点) 多, 过;——3. (順序) 在...的后面, 接着;——4. 亞于, 比較...次要;——5. (目的) 追求, 思慕;——6. 关于, 涉及;
——7. (結果) 因为...的緣故, 所以;——8. 虽然...終归;——9. 摹仿, 仿效;——10. 依照, 适合.

1. (時間) 在...后, ... 以后 (later in time than; at the close of). 如:

I shall be free *after* one o'clock.

He came back *after* a week.

After school, the boys play tennis.

I got sick the day *after* reaching home.

註: *after* 在計算時間上, 通常不把它的主語所表示的時間計算在內, 如第4例中, "the day *after* reaching home" 應譯作 "到家那天的后一天". 又如說 "thirty days *after* April 1", 便是指从 April 2 起到 May 1 止的三十天.

比較: { He will go *in* a few days.
He went *after* a few days.

註: *in* 以現在為起點, 表示將來時期 (future space of time), 用于動詞將來時; *after* 以過去為起點, 表示過去時期 (past space of time), 用于動詞過去時. He will go *after* a few days. (誤) 但在說 “時間的一點 (a point of time) 以後”, *after* 却不妨用于動詞將來時. 參看例句 1.

2. (几点) 多, 过 (= past), 是美語. 如:

It is a quarter *after* six.

About half *after* twelve the roof of the building fell in.

3. (順序) 在...的後面, 接着 (next to in order; in succession to). 如:

The French adjective comes *after* its noun.

Day *after* day passed by.

After you, sir.

After you with the paper, please.

4. 垂于, 比較...次要 (next to in importance or excellence).

如:

After that, this is good.

Milton is usually placed *after* Shakespeare among English poets.

5. (目的) 追求, 思慕 (of purpose: in search or pursuit of; with desire for). 如:

I am *after* you.

He who runs *after* two hares will catch neither.

比較: { She looks *for* the lost sheep (or *for* news or letters).
She looks *after* the sheep (or *after* the children or a shop).

註: to look *for* 寻找, 盼望 (to search for or hope for); to look *after* 看守, 照顧 (to take care of or “see to” the safety or well-being of).

比較: { We all long *for* (or *after*) lasting peace.
He has no greediness *after* (or *for*) knowledge.

註: 在 long, hunt, covet, seek, search, research, endeavour, strive, pant, gasp, sigh, pine, lust, aspire, crave, raven, languish, hanker, yearn, grope, hunger, thirst, mad, eager, aspiration, greediness 等動詞、形容詞、名詞后面, *for* 和 *after* 通用, 但 *after* 語氣較重.

6. 关于, 涉及 (concerning; in relation to). 如:

They asked *after* your health.

He is inquisitive *after* (or *about*) the matter.

比較: { I will inquire *about* it.
He inquired *after* my sick father.

註: to inquire *about* 問某事 (to seek information *about* some matter), to inquire *after* 問候, 問安 (to ask *after* one's health or welfare).

7. (結果) 因为...的緣故, 所以 (subsequent to and in consequence of), 表示自然的結果. 如:

He ought to succeed *after* his labours.

After making a great effort, he at last gained his end.

8. 虽然...終归 (subsequent to and notwithstanding), 表示不自然的結果, 通常和 all 連用. 如:

After all the advice I gave, he adopted a contrary course.

He has failed *after* all his labours.

9. 摹仿, 仿效 (in imitation of). 如:

He was drawing a figure *after* (or *from*) the life.

He made something *after* (or *on*) the model of another.

I wish you to take *after* (= imitate) the best examples.

He takes *after* (= resembles) his father in his disposition.

10. 依照, 適合 (according to; in harmony with). 如:

He lives *after* the world.

They will be rewarded *after* their deserts.

I have found a house *after* my fancy.

You are a teacher *after* my own heart.

5. **Against** (on + going) —1. 冒着, 对着; —2. 冲撞, 碰, 触; —3. 倚着, 靠着; —4. 向着, 在...的对面; —5. 以...为背景; —6. 反对; —7. 敌对, 抵御; —8. 预防, 以备...的需要; —9. 违背, 违犯; —10. 不利于..., 对...有害; —11. 对比, 比较; —12. 交换, 抵销.

1. 冒着, 对着 (in the opposite direction to the motion or course of and through the midst of; in the face of). 如:

The vessel steamed *against* the wind.

We must make head *against* difficulties.

比較: { He swam (went) *against* the stream.
 { He swam (went) *with* the stream.

註: *With* the stream 和 *against* the stream 正相反. *with* the stream 順流 (down stream), (轉为) 順从潮流 (figuratively, with the general current of thought, custom, etc.); *against* the stream 逆流 (up stream), (轉为) 違反潮流 (figuratively, contrary to the established course or tendency).

2. 冲撞, 碰, 触 (into collision with). 如:

I dashed myself *against* the door.

He knocked his head *against* the lintel.

比較: { The ship struck *on* a reef.
 { The ship struck *against* a reef.

註: to strike *on* 表示船坐礁上, 擱淺 (to run aground); to strike *against* 仅表示船触礁 (to collide or dash against).

3. 倚着, 靠着 (supported by; in contact with). 如:

He stands an umbrella *against* the door.

The seats have no back *against* which to lean.

4. 向着, 在...的对面 (facing towards; opposite to), 常和 over 連用. 如:

Over *against* the house, there stands a pine tree.

I live in the village over *against* you.

5. 以...为背景 (having as background). 如:

The white sails are sharply outlined *against* the dark horizon.

The pine trees were black *against* the morning sky (= with the light of the sunrise behind them).

6. 反对 (in opposition to; not for or with). 如:

I am not *against* it.

The people are *against* war.

比較: { He voted *for* (*against*) a person or a measure.
 { He voted *with* (*against*) a party.

註: *against* 在这一意义上和 *for* (贊成)、*with* (贊助) 正相反。再比較: Is he *for* the bill or *against* the bill? Is he *with* us or *against* us?

7. 敌对, 抵禦 (hostile to; in resistance to). 如:

They advanced *against* the enemy.

The match is proof *against* wind and water.

比較: { They fought *with* the enemy.
 { They fought *against* the enemy.

註: to fight, struggle, strive, contend *with* 等的 *with*, 如果換用 *against*, 便有难敌的意味。在如下的短語里, 通常用 *against*: to fight *against* heavy odds, to struggle *against* superior numbers.

8. 預防, 以备...的需要 (in preparation or provision for).

如:

Warnings were set out *against* the approaching storm.

They prepared some medicine *against* the fatigue of the following day.

比較: { It is wise to provide *for* the future.
 { It is wise to provide *against* accidents.

註: to provide *for* 为...而准备 (to make ready beforehand); to provide *against* 为...而預防 (to make preparations to avoid). 一般說来,

against (和 for 相比) 含有对外来的侵袭采取猛烈的抗拒并加以警惕性的自卫的意味. (rarely "for" undesirable things — *The Concise Oxford Dictionary*). 但 to provide (or be prepared) for the worst 也通用. 再比較: I have stored up some fruits for the winter. Ants store up food against the winter.

9. 違背, 違犯 (in contrariety to). 如:

It is *against* reason to expect this.

He committed an offence *against* the law.

10. 不利于..., 对...有害 (unfavourable or injurious to). 如:

I know nothing *against* you (much in your favour).

Public opinion was *against* him (not in his favour).

11. 对比, 比較 (in comparison with). 如:

Forty students have passed this year *against* thirty last year.

He was elected by a majority of thirty votes *against* two.

12. 交换, 抵銷 (in exchange for; as a balance to). 如:

He draws *against* the goods.

Please deliver this package *against* payment of cost.

6. Along (on + long) — 循着, 沿着 (parallel to the length of; following the line of). 如:

There are some trees *along* the road.

He walked *along* the shore yesterday afternoon.

比較: { The road runs *across* the track.
The road runs *along* the track.

註: *across* 和 *along* 的含义正相反. *across* 指和一条綫相交, 表示横过 (crosswise of); *along* 循着一条綫并行, 表示直过 (lengthwise of).

7. Amidst (on + middle) — 1. 在...的包围中; 2. 在...的当中.

1. 在...的包围中 (in the midst or centre of, and hence surrounded by). 如:

We were *amidst* dangers.

This work was done *amidst* many interruptions.

比較: { I found myself *among* friends (separable objects).
He is *amidst* his enemies (separable objects).
We groped *amidst* the darkness (inseparable object).
He was *among* (amidst) the crowd.

註: *among* 指“混合或參雜在多數可分離的事物的中間”; *amidst* 却指“处在可分離或不可分離的事物的中心而被包圍. *among* the crowd, crowd 是羣衆名詞 (noun of multitude), 注重集合體中的各個體——他在人羣中間容易分別出來; *amidst* the crowd, crowd 是集合名詞 (collective noun), 把集合體作一體看——他在人羣中間不容易分別出來. 再比較: We noticed him *among* the crowd. We detected the man *amidst* the crowd. 參考: *Among, Amidst*. — *Among* denotes a mingling or intermixture with distinct or separable object; as, “A certain man ... fell *among* thieves” (Luke X. 30); *among* the people. Hence it is regularly followed by a plural noun or a collective noun. *Amidst* denotes literally in the *midst* or middle of, hence surrounded by; and that which surrounds may or may not consist of distinct or separable objects; as, “to the lonely inn ‘mid the rocks” (M. Arnold). — *Webster's New International Dictionary*.

2. 在...的當中 (in the course or progress of). 如:

We kept on *amidst* the storm.

The curtain fell *amidst* the cheers of the audience.

-8. **Among** (on + mingle) — 1. 在(多數)之中, 在...中間; — 2. 在...的中間, 被...圍繞; — 3. 參雜其間, 和...混在一起; — 4. 在其中, 包括其中; — 5. 分配, 分派; — 6. 合作, 共同行動; — 7. 共有, 公有.

1. 在(多數)之中, 在...中間 (in the midst of more than two; with or by the members of a group generally). 如:

I don't know the difference *among* those four.

He is popular *among* the people.

2. 在...的中間, 被...圍繞 (in such a position as to be surrounded by). 如:

There is a cottage *among* the trees (=with trees on all sides).

The town nestles *among* the hills.

3. 參雜其間, 和...混在一起 (intermingled with; in company or associated with). 如:

He has lived much *among* foreigners.

The Korean sojourned *among* (or *with*) us (=in our country).

4. 在其中, 包括其中 (in the number, class or group of). 如:

He is *among* the working classes.

Paris is *among* (= one of) the largest cities in the world.

5. 分配, 分派 (by or for distribution to; in shares to each and all of) 如:

It was divided equally *among* them.

The teacher distributed them *among* the students.

比較: { He divided the oranges *among* them.
He divided the oranges *with* them.

註: to divide...*among* 指完全分給他人 (to give all to others), 自己絲毫不拿; to divide...*with* 指和他人分享, 即自己也拿一部分 (to take a part himself).

6. 合作, 共同行動 (with the common aid of; by the joint or reciprocal action of). 如:

Settle it *among* yourselves.

Let us finish the work *among* us.

7. 共有, 公有 (belonging in common to). 如:

They had less than five dollars *among* them (= All of them together had less than five dollars).

They owned the piano *among* them.

9. Around (on + round)——1. 圍着, 在...的周圍;——2. 環繞, 圍