

## PREPOSITION

English prepositions cause a great deal of confusion for non-native speakers. This article is about some of the most common preposition pairs which are easily confused.

### ***In / into***

What exactly is the difference between in and into? At least in a few cases, they are both possible. However, there are some differences, too.

Both 'in' and 'into' refer to three dimensional spaces. In is used to talk about position. Into is used to talk about directions and destinations.

- He is not in his office. (NOT He is not into his office.)
- She walked into the room. (NOT She walked in the room.)

Into is often used to suggest that people or things move from an outdoor space into an indoor space.

### **Compare:**

- She was walking in the garden. (Here in shows position inside the garden.)
- Then she walked into her house. (Here into shows movement from the garden to the house.)
- She is in her room reading a book.
- She ran into the room carrying a paper.



## **On / onto**

The difference between on and onto is similar to the difference between in and into.

**On** shows position while **Onto** shows movement or direction.

- There is a book on the table. (Position)
- He threw the book onto the bed.
- The cat is on the roof.
- How does it get onto the roof?
- Can you get onto the roof without a ladder?
- See if you can throw your hat onto the roof.

Into and onto are normally written as single words. On to is also possible in British English.

**Note:** After some verbs (e.g. throw, jump, push, put) both in and into or on and onto are possible with similar meanings.



## *Of*

Used for belonging to, relating to, or connected with:

- The secret of this game is that you can't ever win.
- The highlight of the show is at the end.
- The first page of the book describes the author's profile.
- Don't touch it. That's the bag of my friend's sister.
- I always dreamed of being rich and famous.

Used to indicate reference:

- I got married in the summer of 2000.
- This is a picture of my family.
- I got a discount of 10 percent on the purchase.
- Used to indicate an amount or number:
  - I drank three cups of milk.
  - A large number of people gathered to protest.
  - I had only four hours of sleep during the last two days.
  - He got a perfect score of 5 on his writing assignment.



## To

If you are reading some English, you can usually see the answer to this question. If to is followed immediately by a simple verb, it is part of an **infinitive**. If to is followed by a noun construction, it is a **preposition**.

Used to indicate the place, person, or thing that someone or something moves toward, or the direction of something:

- I am heading to the entrance of the building.
- The package was mailed to Mr. Kim yesterday.
- All of us went to the movie theater.
- Please send it back to me.

**Used to indicate a limit or an ending point:**

- The snow was piled up to the roof.
- The stock prices rose up to 100 dollars.
- Used to indicate relationship:
  - This letter is very important to your admission.
  - My answer to your question is in this envelop.
  - Do not respond to every little thing in your life.

**Used to indicate a time or a period:**

- I work nine to six, Monday to Friday.
- It is now 10 to five. (In other words, it is 4:50.)



## **For**

Used to indicate the use of something:

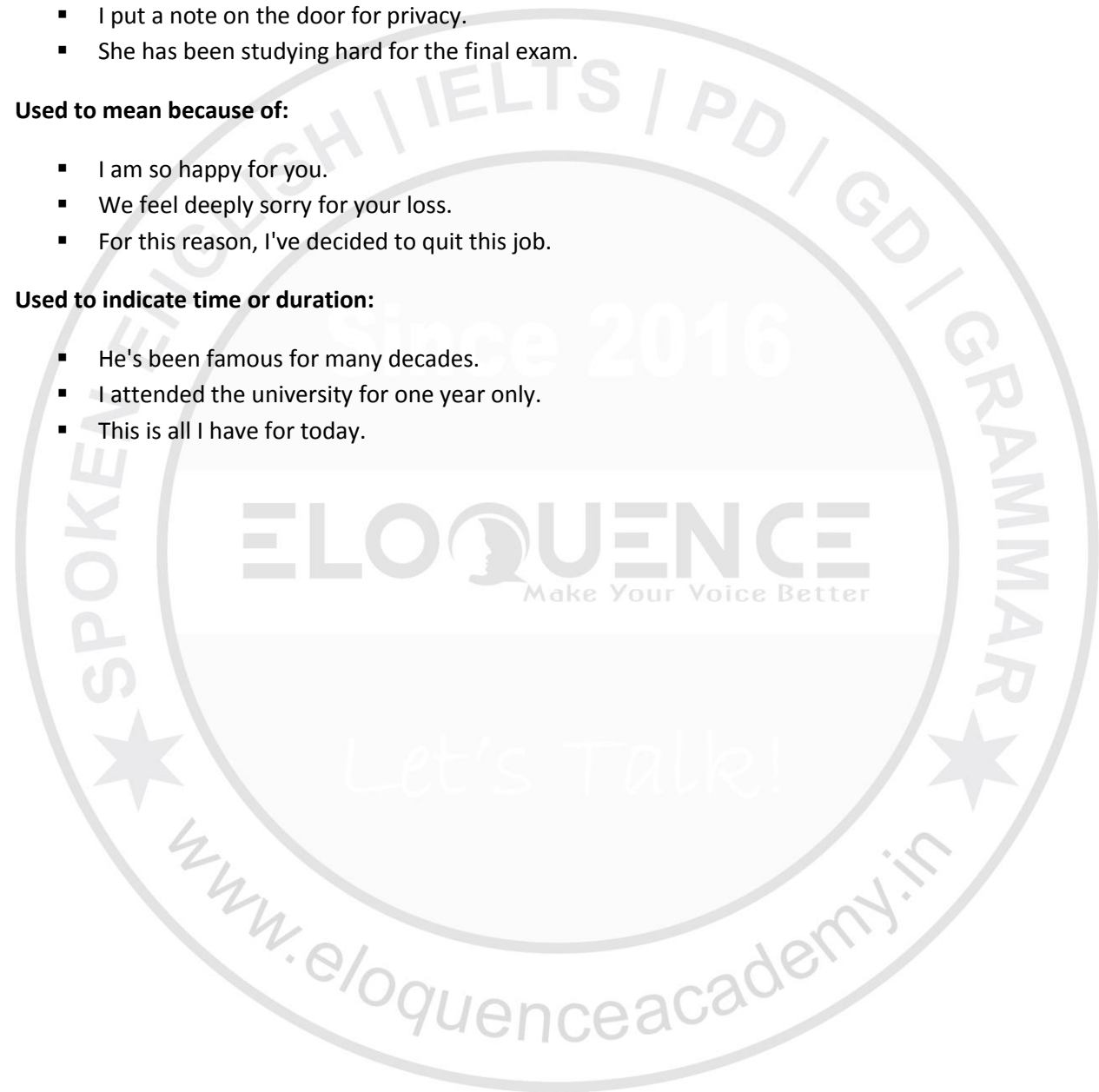
- This place is for exhibitions and shows.
- I baked a cake for your birthday.
- I put a note on the door for privacy.
- She has been studying hard for the final exam.

**Used to mean because of:**

- I am so happy for you.
- We feel deeply sorry for your loss.
- For this reason, I've decided to quit this job.

**Used to indicate time or duration:**

- He's been famous for many decades.
- I attended the university for one year only.
- This is all I have for today.





## At

Used to represent small place:

- I live at Karol Bag in Delhi.
- The train is arriving at platform no. 03.
- I was at home whole day yesterday. .
- Men are at work (different type sentence).

Used to present any specific time:

- I meet you at 5 o'clock in the evening.
- I get up early in the morning at 4 o'clock.
- I finish my work before 11PM.( no use of at here)
- Come to meet me at noon.



## Still

Still implies that something has happened and is continuing to happen.

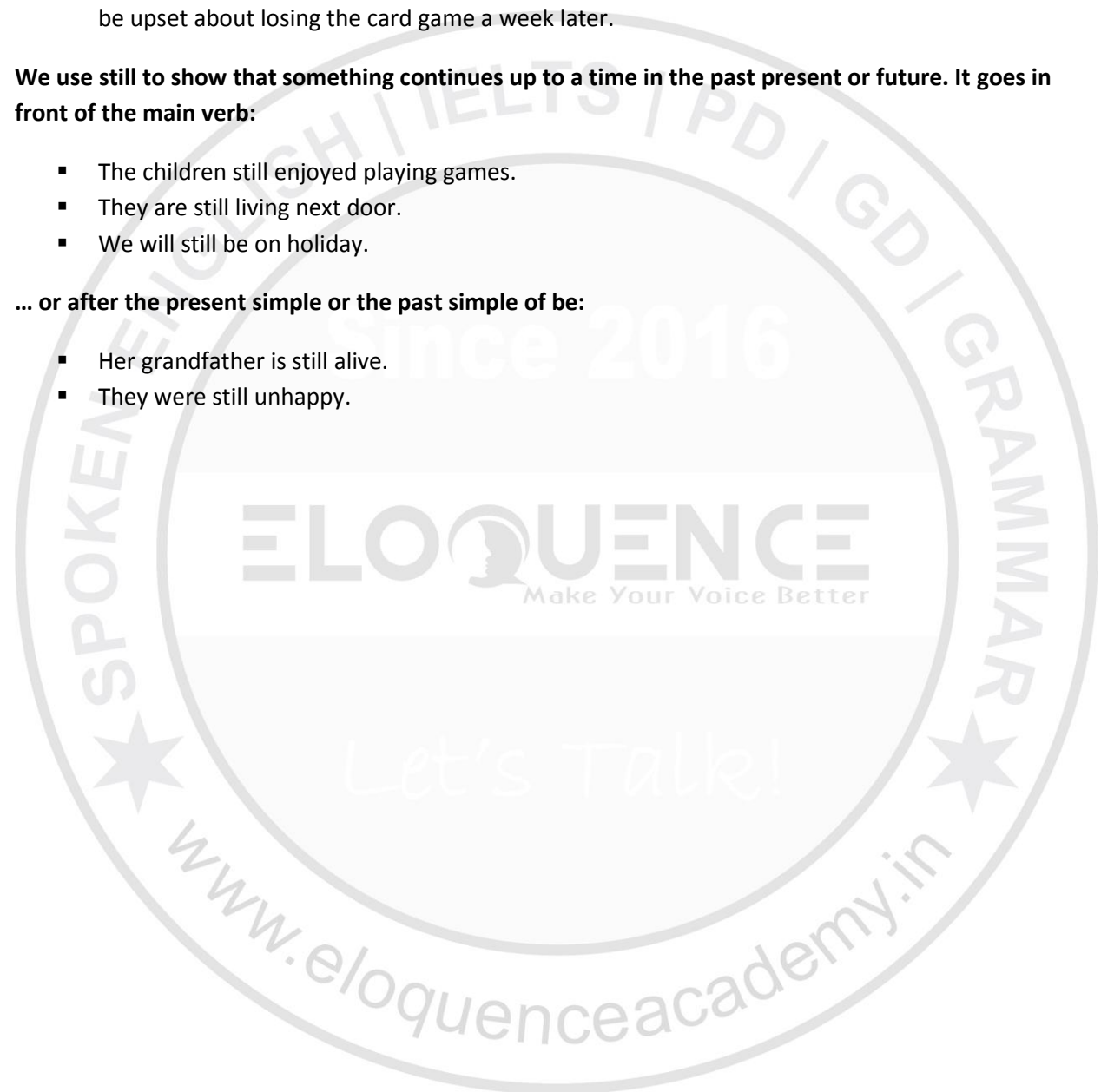
- Sally is still upset about losing that card game last week.
- Sally lost a card game last week and was upset about it. Sally is still upset. // Sally continues to be upset about losing the card game a week later.

**We use still to show that something continues up to a time in the past present or future. It goes in front of the main verb:**

- The children still enjoyed playing games.
- They are still living next door.
- We will still be on holiday.

**... or after the present simple or the past simple of be:**

- Her grandfather is still alive.
- They were still unhappy.



## Yet

Yet is mostly used to describe something that is going to or may be likely to happen, but has not actually occurred.

- Sally hasn't won a card game yet.
- Sally has not won a card game. Sally may win a card game, but it has not up to this point happened. Sally hasn't won yet.

**We use yet in a negative or interrogative clause, usually with perfective aspect (especially in British English), to show that something has not happened by a particular time. Yet comes at the end of the sentence:**

- It was late, but they hadn't arrived yet.
- Have you fixed the car yet?
- She won't have sent the email yet.

