Prepositions of Place: Words That Show Where Things Are

KS3 MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES Ages 11-14 ⏰ 3 min read

What Are Prepositions of Place?

Prepositions of place are special words that tell us where something is. They're like invisible pointing fingers that show the location of objects, people, or animals in relation to something else. Without these words, it would be really hard to explain where things are!

In **Modern Foreign Languages**, learning prepositions of place is super important because you need them every day. Whether you're asking where the bathroom is, describing your bedroom, or telling someone where to find your lost keys, these words do all the heavy lifting.

Think of it like a treasure map. Without words like "under the tree" or "next to the rock," nobody could find the treasure. Prepositions are the labels on your map that show exactly where everything is hidden.

Common Prepositions of Place

There are **about 20 common prepositions of place** that you'll use all the time. **On** means something is resting on top of a surface—like a book on a table. **Under** is the opposite—something is below something else, like a toy under the bed.

Next to (or **beside**) means two things are side by side, like you sitting next to your friend at lunch. **In front of** means in the forward direction, while **behind** means at the back. **Between** describes something in the middle of two other things.

Other useful ones include **above** (higher up), **below** (lower down), **inside** (within something), **outside** (not within something), **at** (a general location), and **near** (close to something).

Think of it like directions in a video game. If you're trying to find an enemy, you need to know: Is it above me? Below me? Behind that wall? Prepositions are your game guide giving you these directions.

Why They Matter in Languages

Every language has prepositions of place, but they don't always work the same way. What works in **English** might be different in **French**, **Spanish**, or **German**. That's why learning them properly is essential when you're studying a new language.

When you're learning to speak a language fluently, you'll need these words constantly. They help you describe your home, give directions, talk about where you went on holiday, and explain how things are organized. Mastering prepositions of place is one of the **building blocks** of becoming confident in any language!

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