



Writing Centre

Prepositions: For, Of, and To

A **preposition** is a word, or set of words that indicate a location (e.g., in, near, beside, on top of) or a relationship between a noun, pronoun and other parts of the sentence (e.g., about, after, besides, instead of).

For: used to indicate or show the use of something (an object), tell the reader the reason why, or show time or duration.

- I baked a cake *for* your birthday.
- I am so happy *for* you because you won the lottery.
- This is all the work I have done *for* today.

Of: used to show belonging to (ownership), or connected with, or to show reference (one thing refers to another), or indicate an amount or number.

- That idea *of* yours is very good.
- I got a discount *of* 10% from using the coupon.
- If you buy me a box *of* chocolates, I will kiss you.
- I drank seven cups *of* coffee before my exam.

To: is used to indicate the place, person, or thing that someone or something moves toward, the direction of something (that an object is going), a limit or ending point, a relationship (object or person), and a time or period of time.

- Please send it back *to* me by next week.
- The snow was piled up *to* the roof.
- This letter is very important *to* me because it is very old.
- I work nine *to* five, Monday *to* Friday.