English Prepositions

Use this key to check answers and read the explanations.

1. Complete ‘The rehearsal starts ___ 6:30.’
   A. at
   B. on
   C. in
   D. into
   Correct answer: A. at
   Use at with a specific clock time.

2. Complete ‘The art club meets ___ Wednesdays.’
   A. at
   B. in
   C. on
   D. inside
   Correct answer: C. on
   Specific days of the week normally take on.

3. Complete ‘The lake usually freezes ___ January.’
   A. on
   B. in
   C. at
   D. onto
   Correct answer: B. in
   Use in before a month when no particular date is given.

4. Which preposition puts a name tag against the surface of your shirt: ‘The tag is ___ my shirt’?
   A. between
   B. under
   C. inside
   D. on
   Correct answer: D. on
   On describes contact with the surface of the shirt.

5. Which word puts the coins inside the jar: ‘The coins are ___ the jar’?

A. on
B. in
C. above
D. beside

Correct answer: B. in
In describes a position within the jar.

6. Complete ‘Meet me ___ the ticket counter’ to describe the counter as a meeting point.

A. at
B. onto
C. into
D. across

Correct answer: A. at
Use at when you treat a location as a point where something happens.

7. Complete ‘The gallery opens ___ October 3.’

A. into
B. at
C. in
D. on

Correct answer: D. on
A particular calendar date takes on, even though a month on its own takes in.

8. Which word fits ‘The bench sits ___ the fountain and the statue, with one on each side’?

A. behind
B. under
C. between
D. inside

Correct answer: C. between
Between describes the location separating the two named objects.

9. Complete ‘The kitten climbed ___ the empty basket and curled up inside it.’

A. into
B. away from
C. past
D. out of

Correct answer: A. into
Into describes motion from outside the basket to its interior.

10. Choose the phrase that shows the ferry leaves the harbor: ‘The ferry sailed ___ the harbor and reached open water.’

A. toward
B. onto
C. into
D. out of

Correct answer: D. out of
Out of describes movement from inside the harbor to the outside.

11. Complete ‘Rosa called ___ Tuesday morning.’

A. into
B. at
C. on
D. in

Correct answer: C. on
Use on when the part of the day is tied to a specific named day.

12. Which word shows motion from one side of the street to the other: ‘We walked ___ the street to the opposite curb’?

A. along
B. across
C. overlooking
D. beneath

Correct answer: B. across
Across indicates a path from one side to the other.

13. Which phrase explicitly says the frog completed a movement from outside the pond into the water?

A. The frog jumped away from the pond.
B. The frog jumped in the pond.
C. The frog jumped beside the pond.
D. The frog jumped into the pond.

Correct answer: D. The frog jumped into the pond.
Into specifies entry. In can locate the jumping inside the pond.

14. Which sequence completes ‘The club meets ___ July, ___ Fridays, ___ noon’?

A. in / on / at
B. on / at / in
C. at / on / in
D. in / at / on

Correct answer: A. in / on / at
The month takes in, the days take on, and the clock time takes at.

15. Which version of the sentence follows the usual pattern with ‘next Monday’?

A. The class starts in next Monday.
B. The class starts at next Monday.
C. The class starts next Monday.
D. The class starts on next Monday.

Correct answer: C. The class starts next Monday.
Next before a weekday generally makes an ordinary time preposition unnecessary.