A2 GRAMMAR

Prepositions of movement

Show where someone or something moves

to · from · into · across · through · over

Lesson + practice + teacher key

Source: Test-English, “Prepositions of movement: Along, across, over, etc.”

What do prepositions of movement do?

They show the direction of a movement.

We usually use them after movement verbs:
walk, run, go, drive, cycle, fly, jump

The bird flew over the wall.
She walked towards the station.

Ask yourself:

1. Where does the movement start?
2. Where does it go?
3. Does it enter, cross, pass or go around something?

The dog ran into the garden.

Warm-up: Mime one movement. Your partner says the full sentence.

Destination, origin and direction

CORE WORDS

to	from	towards
a destination	a starting point	a direction

We walked to the café.
I flew from Madrid to Rome.
The children ran towards the sea.

Tip: “towards” means in the direction of, but the person may not arrive there.

Practice: to, from or towards

TRY IT

Complete each sentence with to, from or towards.

A. We drove _____ the airport at 5 a.m.

B. The train goes _____ London _____ Edinburgh.

C. The child ran _____ her mother when she saw her.

D. I walked _____ home after class.

E. The ball rolled _____ the window.

Compare answers in pairs. Explain your choice with destination, origin or direction.

Entering and leaving a place

into
Movement enters an enclosed space.

The cat jumped into the box.
We walked into the shop.

out of
Movement leaves an enclosed space.

He ran out of the house.
She took the keys out of her bag.

Use “in” for position: The cat is in the box. Use “into” for movement: The cat jumped into the box.

Practice: into or out of

TRY IT

Choose into or out of.

A. The football went _____ the goal.

B. She took her phone _____ her pocket.

C. A bird flew _____ the open window.

D. We came _____ the cinema after the film.

E. The children ran _____ the classroom when the bell rang.

A surface, height and a route

onto / off

The child climbed onto the chair.
The glass fell off the table.

up / down

We walked up the hill.
She ran down the stairs.

along / around

Walk along this road.
They drove around the city.

onto = to a surface. off = away from a surface.

Practice: onto, off, up, down, along or around

TRY IT

Choose the best preposition.

A. The cyclist fell _____ her bike.

B. Walk _____ the river until you see the bridge.

C. The monkey climbed _____ the tree.

D. Please come _____ the stairs carefully.

E. The dog jumped _____ the sofa.

F. We drove _____ the lake because the road was closed.

Crossing, passing and going above or below

across	through	over / under	past
across the road from one side to the other	through the tunnel inside one side and out the other	over a wall under a bridge	past the bank beyond it

We swam across the river.
The train went through the tunnel.
The plane flew over the mountains.
Walk past the pharmacy.

Practice: crossing and passing

TRY IT

Complete the route with across, through, over, under or past.

A. Go _____ the bridge and turn right.

B. The rabbit ran _____ the fence.

C. We walked _____ the park to get home.

D. The bus went _____ the museum. The museum was on our right.

E. Use the subway to go _____ the road safely.