**Most common prepositions in order of frequency**

Based on the following sections of *Corpus of Contemporary American English* (1990-2012)

Fiction (90 million words) Popular Magazines (95 million words),

Newspapers (92 million words) Academic Journals (91 million words)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| OF | 9,822,281 | http://corpus2.byu.edu/coca/k.jpg |  | SUCH | 132,160 | http://corpus2.byu.edu/coca/k.jpg |
| IN | 6,528,757 | http://corpus2.byu.edu/coca/k.jpg |  | TOWARD | 113,361 | http://corpus2.byu.edu/coca/k.jpg |
| TO | 3,608,081 | http://corpus2.byu.edu/coca/k.jpg |  | WITHIN | 112,147 | http://corpus2.byu.edu/coca/k.jpg |
| FOR | 3,074,723 | http://corpus2.byu.edu/coca/k.jpg |  | ACROSS | 107,143 | http://corpus2.byu.edu/coca/k.jpg |
| WITH | 2,548,543 | http://corpus2.byu.edu/coca/k.jpg |  | OFF | 98,510 | http://corpus2.byu.edu/coca/k.jpg |
| ON | 2,286,336 | http://corpus2.byu.edu/coca/k.jpg |  | BEHIND | 92,795 |  |
| AT | 1,684,661 | http://corpus2.byu.edu/coca/k.jpg |  | ALONG | 85,238 |  |
| FROM | 1,556,277 | http://corpus2.byu.edu/coca/k.jpg |  | UP | 76,933 |  |
| BY | 1,481,892 | http://corpus2.byu.edu/coca/k.jpg |  | PER | 65,186 |  |
| AS | 829,221 | http://corpus2.byu.edu/coca/k.jpg |  | UPON | 57,175 |  |
| ABOUT | 660,986 | http://corpus2.byu.edu/coca/k.jpg |  | NEAR | 56,225 |  |
| INTO | 653,872 | http://corpus2.byu.edu/coca/k.jpg |  | THAN | 55,355 |  |
| LIKE | 502,681 | http://corpus2.byu.edu/coca/k.jpg |  | DESPITE | 53,288 |  |
| THROUGH | 337,183 | http://corpus2.byu.edu/coca/k.jpg |  | BEYOND | 50,011 |  |
| AFTER | 293,210 | http://corpus2.byu.edu/coca/k.jpg |  | AWAY | 48,122 |  |
| OVER | 285,521 | http://corpus2.byu.edu/coca/k.jpg |  | ONTO | 46,520 |  |
| BETWEEN | 266,941 | http://corpus2.byu.edu/coca/k.jpg |  | ABOVE | 46,060 |  |
| OUT | 211,531 | http://corpus2.byu.edu/coca/k.jpg |  | SINCE | 44,962 |  |
| DURING | 192,226 | http://corpus2.byu.edu/coca/k.jpg |  | OUTSIDE | 44,577 |  |
| AGAINST | 184,933 | http://corpus2.byu.edu/coca/k.jpg |  | INSIDE | 38,261 |  |
| BEFORE | 168,834 | http://corpus2.byu.edu/coca/k.jpg |  | THROUGHOUT | 37,781 |  |
| WITHOUT | 168,721 | http://corpus2.byu.edu/coca/k.jpg |  | DOWN | 37,406 |  |
| UNDER | 157,056 | http://corpus2.byu.edu/coca/k.jpg |  | FRONT | 36,207 |  |
| AMONG | 144,199 | http://corpus2.byu.edu/coca/k.jpg |  | UNTIL | 24,916 |  |
| AROUND | 136,394 | http://corpus2.byu.edu/coca/k.jpg |  |  |  |  |



prepositional phrases

that follow nouns

prepositional phrases that tell

when, where, why, how,

how much, how long

prepositional phrases

that link ideas

prepositional phrases

that express attitude, certainty, point of view



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in January, at midnight

from here, to the store, in chapter 2

for an assignment, with good grades

with joy, like an animal, by train

at 375 degrees

for a week

in other words, in addition,

for example, in contrast,

by the way, for one thing,

in conclusion

lots *of work*, a piece *of cake*,

these kinds *of questions*, the front *of the*…, the shape *of the*…,

the mess *in his bedroom*,

your health *in the long run*,

the search *for new ideas*

in fact, of course,

from my perspective,

on the whole, to my surprise, according to the author