

# Intervention 2: Prepositions

## Information for teachers

- **Prepositions** are words that express a relationship between a noun and another noun, or between a noun and a verb
- They can express:
  - **relations in space** (*to, from*)
  - **relations in time** (*before, after*)
  - **abstract relations** (*despite, except*)
- A single preposition can often be used to express more than one type of relationship
  - Mary said this in class
  - Mary said this in the morning
  - Mary said this in all seriousness
- When prepositions express simple physical relations, they are fairly easy to understand
- The more abstract meanings of prepositions cause trouble for almost all learners of English
- Some distinctions that are very easily confused include:
  - *to/at*
  - *in/on/at*
  - *of/from*
  - *since/for*
- Children who speak some of the languages most commonly found in NI schools, such as Polish, Portuguese, and Arabic, will benefit from this intervention
- However, this intervention is not just for specific languages
  - It may be of use to any Newcomer pupil
  - It can also help English-speaking pupils to understand English better

## How to use this resource

- This resource contains stories with deliberate mistakes in them
- Children can go through the stories looking for mistakes
- There are also questions for children to answer, based on the stories
- A teacher or assistant should be present to explain these tasks to children, make sure they understand the questions, and help with any areas where they may be struggling
- You can use the stories and questions included here as a template, and create your own resources based on other stories
- These resources are intended for children in Key Stage 2, but similar methods may be useful for older or younger children.

# Classroom Materials

## Story 1

### Little Red Riding Hood

Little Red Riding Hood was a little girl who always wore a red hood.

One day Little Red Riding Hood's mother gave her a basket with some food in it and asked her to take it her grandmother. Her grandmother lived in the other side of the forest.

After Little Red Riding Hood had been walking through the forest since several minutes, she saw a wolf. The wolf asked to Little Red Riding Hood where she was going. Little Red Riding Hood said that she was taking some food to her grandmother.

While Little Red Riding Hood was picking flowers, the wolf ran to her grandmother's house. The wolf ate her grandmother up. Then he put on her grandmother's clothes and got into her bed.

Little Red Riding Hood arrived her grandmother's house. The wolf told her to come in.

'Put the basket by the table,' said the wolf.

'Oh, Grandmother, what big eyes you have!' said Little Red Riding Hood.

'All the better to see you with, my dear,' said the wolf.

'Oh Grandmother, what big teeth you have!' said Little Red Riding Hood.

'All the better to eat you with,' said the wolf.

Then the wolf jumped from bed and ate Little Red Riding Hood.

### Questions

1. Go through the story above and circle anything that looks wrong.
2. Was Little Red Riding Hood in the forest or out of the forest when she met the wolf?
3. Fill in the blanks:
  - a. Little Red Riding Hood met the wolf \_\_\_\_\_ picking flowers
  - b. The wolf leapt \_\_\_\_\_ Little Red Riding Hood's grandmother
  - c. The wolf got \_\_\_\_\_ bed

4. Answer the following questions:

i. Which would Little Red Riding Hood have said?



A. 'There are beautiful flowers at the forest.'

B. 'There are beautiful flowers in the forest.'

ii. Which would Little Red Riding Hood have said?



A. 'Here I am at Grandmother's house.'

B. 'Here I am in Grandmother's house.'

iii. Which would the wolf have said?

A. 'It's warm in this bed.'

B. 'It's warm on this bed.'

5. If Little Red Riding Hood put the basket by the table, what would the basket be sitting on?

## Story 2

### Jack and the Beanstalk

Jack and his mother lived in a farm. They were very poor. To get some money, they decided to sell their cow.

Jack took the cow to market. On the way, he met a man who asked Jack to sell him the cow. The man offered Jack five magic beans against the cow.

Jack gave the man the cow and went to home with his magic beans. His mother was very angry that all Jack had got was some beans. She threw the beans out of the window.

The next morning, when Jack got up, he found that the beans had grown into a huge beanstalk. The beanstalk reached all the way up the sky.

Jack climbed up to the beanstalk. At the top of the beanstalk, he arrived at the house of a giant.

Jack hid in the giant's house and watched what he did. The giant had lots of treasures. He had a lot of money, a hen that laid golden eggs, and a magical harp.

When the giant fell asleep, Jack took his treasures and climbed down the beanstalk with them. The giant woke up and chased Jack. Jack reached the ground while the giant was still climbing down. Jack got an axe and chopped the beanstalk down. The giant fell off the sky and was killed.

Jack and his mother now had plenty money. They lived happily ever after.

### Questions

1. Go through the story above and circle anything that looks wrong.
2. Was Jack indoors or outdoors when he saw the giant?
3. Fill in the blanks:
  - a. Jack was on his way \_\_\_\_\_ market.
  - b. Jack looked \_\_\_\_\_ the beanstalk.
  - c. Jack ran \_\_\_\_\_ the giant's house with the treasure.

4. Answer the following questions:

i. Which would Jack have said?



A. 'Where's that noise coming from?'

B. 'Where's that noise coming off?'

ii. Which would Jack have said?



A. 'I'm almost in the ground!'

B. 'I'm almost on the ground!'

iii. Which would the giant have said?

A. 'I'll have to climb down the beanstalk!'

B. 'I'll have to climb on the beanstalk!'

5. If Jack said, '*This is what the beans grew in,*' what was he talking about?

## Story 3

### Sleeping Beauty

Once upon a time there was a princess. When she was a baby, the king and queen invited everyone at her christening. There was a wicked fairy that they didn't invite, but she came to the christening anyway.

The wicked fairy was angry on not being invited. She put a curse in the princess, saying that when she was older, she would prick her finger on a spindle and die.

There was also a good fairy at the christening. She made it so that when the princess pricked her finger, she wouldn't die; she would just fall in a deep sleep.

One day, when she was sixteen, the princess saw an old woman making thread with a spinning wheel. The princess asked if she could try making thread. When she sat at the wheel, she pricked her finger on the spindle and fell asleep.

Everyone else in the castle fell asleep too. The king and queen fell asleep. All the soldiers and servants fell asleep. An enormous hedge of brambles grew up around the castle.

After a hundred years later, a prince was riding by. He saw the hedge of brambles and wondered around it. To find out what was inside the hedge, he hacked his way through his sword.

Inside the hedge, he found the castle with everyone asleep at it. He went into the castle and saw the princess. He kissed her and she woke up.

Everyone else in the castle woke up too. The prince and the princess were married, and lived happily ever after.

### Questions

1. Go through the story above and circle anything that looks wrong.
2. Was the hedge inside the castle, or outside it?
3. Fill in the blanks:
  - a. The king asked the good fairy \_\_\_\_\_ the christening.
  - b. The old woman was sitting \_\_\_\_\_ the spinning wheel.
  - c. The prince found out \_\_\_\_\_ the castle.



4. Answer the following questions:

i. Which would the queen have said?



A. 'The baby is in the cradle.'

B. 'The baby is on the cradle.'

ii. Which would Sleeping Beauty have said?



A. 'That woman is turning wool in thread!'

B. 'That woman is turning wool into thread!'

iii. Which would the prince have said?

A. 'I must get in this hedge!'

B. 'I must get through this hedge!'

5. If someone said, '*The princess will sleep in several years,*' when did this happen?

## Story 4

### **The Tortoise and the Hare**

Once there was a hare who challenged a tortoise a race. They asked a fox to be the judge of the race.

The hare was sure that he would win, because he was faster from the tortoise. ‘What a dull, heavy creature you are!’ he said to the tortoise.

The tortoise and the hare started off together. The hare raced off quickly and soon left the tortoise behind.

After a while, the hare got tired and decided to stop running. ‘I can start again when the tortoise gets to here,’ thought the hare. So the hare lay down and had a rest. After a while, he fell asleep.

Meanwhile, the tortoise kept jogging steadily on. At first, he was far behind the hare. Once the hare had stopped, though, the tortoise began to catch up on him. Eventually, the tortoise got at where the hare was. The hare didn’t wake up. The tortoise kept on and passed the hare.

When the hare woke up, the tortoise was ahead of him. As soon as he woke up, the hare raced off and soon reached the finish line. But he was too late. The fox told to the hare that the tortoise had already won. The hare realised that he shouldn’t have stopped to rest.

### Questions

1. Go through the story above and circle anything that looks wrong.
2. When the hare woke up, was the tortoise there with him?
3. Fill in the blanks:
  - a. At first the tortoise was \_\_\_\_\_ the hare.
  - b. The hare slept \_\_\_\_\_ the ground.
  - c. The tortoise was the first to go \_\_\_\_\_ the finish line.



4. Answer the following questions:

i. Which would the hare have said?



A. 'I'll get there before you!'

B. 'I'll get there in front of you!'

ii. Which would the hare have said?



A. 'I'll wait for the tortoise.'

B. 'I'll wait on the tortoise.'

iii. Which would the tortoise have said?

A. 'I need to get over the line!'

B. 'I need to get on the line!'

5. If the fox said, '*The hare is over the line now,*' was the fox at the starting line or the finish line?