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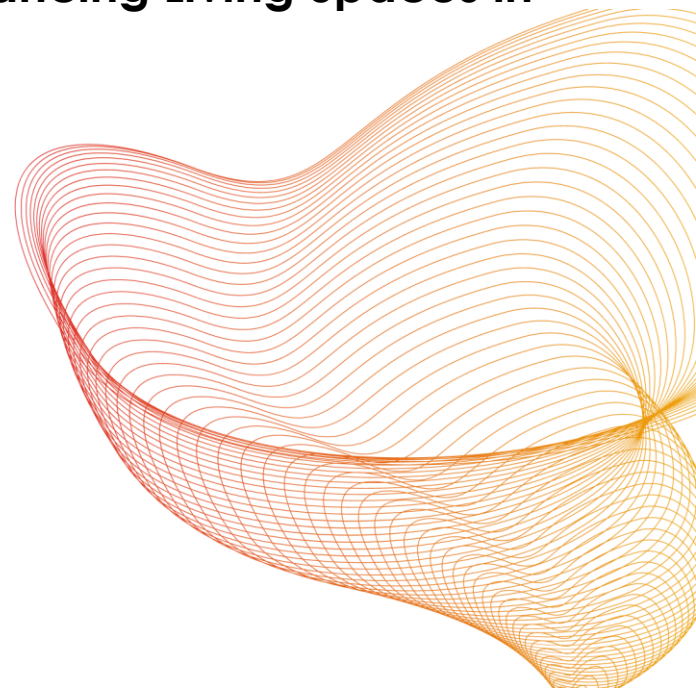
Module 4

- UNIT 1 - Prepositions
- UNIT 2 - Reading Comprehension
- UNIT 3 - Listening Comprehension
 - UNIT 4 - Use of English



Introduction

Contemporary Yet Traditional Courtyards: Enhancing Living Spaces in Chinese Residential Projects





The Courtyards

Courtyards have long been a fundamental aspect **of** traditional Chinese architecture, serving as central spaces **around** which domestic life is organized.



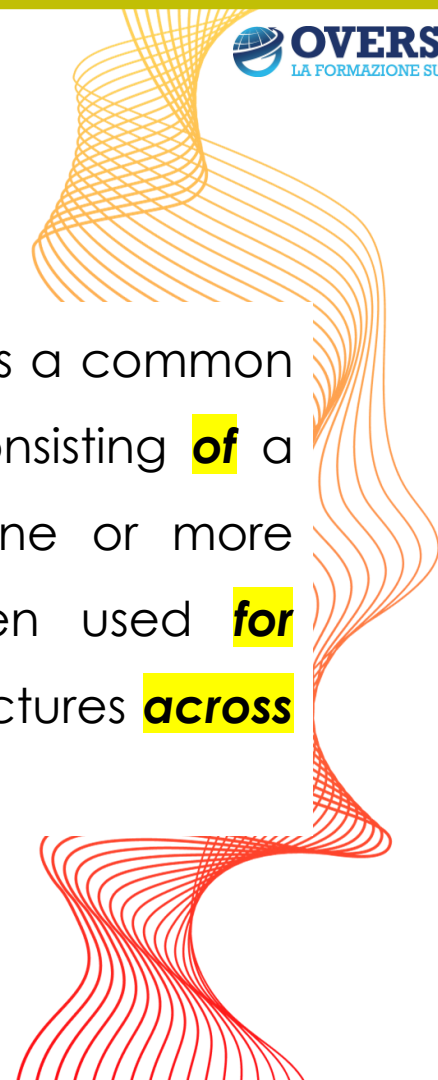
These spaces play a vital role **in** creating a harmonious living environment, offering benefits that range **from** regulating indoor temperatures **to** enhancing social interactions and fostering a close connection **with** nature.





The so called 'Quadrangle'

The Siheyuan, which translates **to** "quadrangle," is a common typology **in** traditional Chinese architecture, consisting **of** a compound **with** buildings arranged **around** one or more courtyards. This typology has historically been used **for** residences, palaces, monasteries, and other structures **across** both Chinese cities and rural areas.



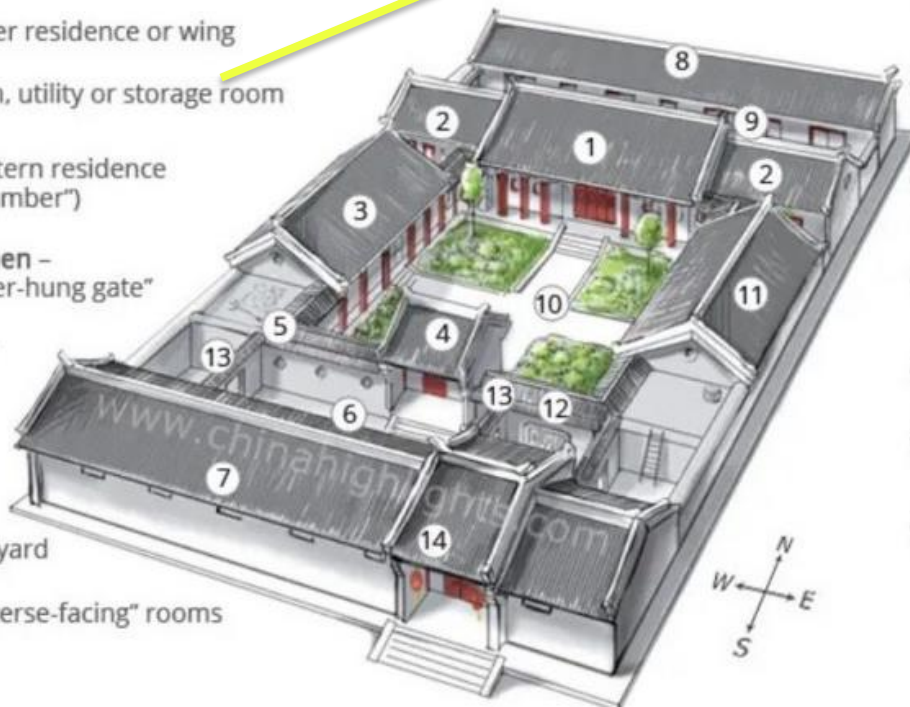
General layout of Siheyuan

3. The area reserved to the **unmarried daughters**

2. Erfang, literally meaning ears' rooms. They are so called because **the two rooms on either side of the main house are like ears**.

11. The area reserved to **married sons**.

- ① Zhengfang - master residence or wing
- ② Erfang - "ear" room, utility or storage room
- ③ Xixiangfang - western residence or wing ("West Chamber")
- ④ Ermen, Chuihuamen - second gate, "flower-hung gate"
- ⑤ Zoulang - corridor
- ⑥ Waiyuan - outer or first courtyard
- ⑦ Daozuofang - "reverse-facing" rooms



- ⑧ Houzhaofang - north hall or pavilion, "backside building"
- ⑨ Disanjinyuan - rear or third courtyard
- ⑩ Neiyuan - inner or second courtyard
- ⑪ Dongxiangfang - eastern residence or wing
- ⑫ Yingbi - Spirit screen or wall
- ⑬ Pingmen - entranceway or small gate
- ⑭ Damen - Main or front gate

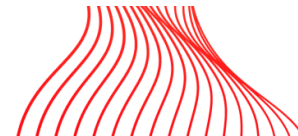


Blending Outdoors and Indoor



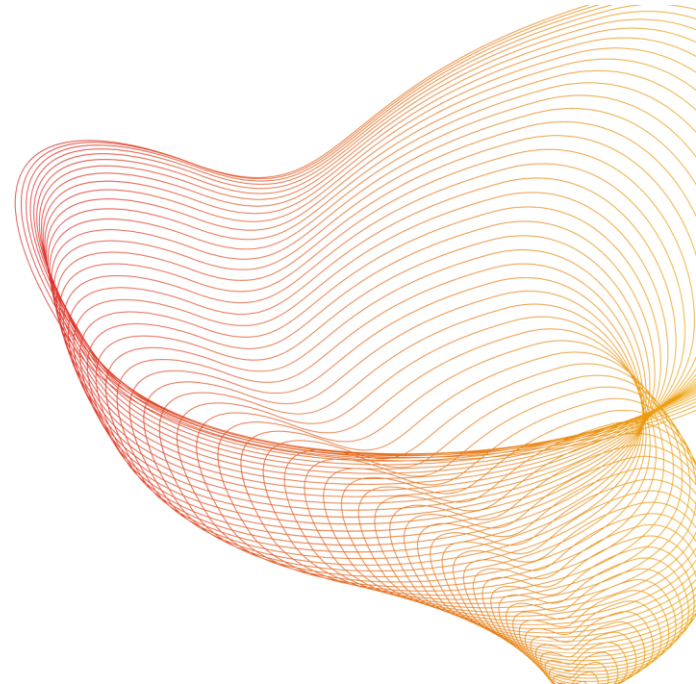
Whether **within** a refurbishment project or **as part of** a new build, courtyards continue to be relevant **for** Chinese homes today.

They have been reinterpreted **throughout** the ages to incorporate gardens and functional exterior areas that also seamlessly integrate the outdoors **into** the interior spaces.





Unit 1 – Prepositions



▶ Prepositions: The Basics

Prepositions in English are most frequently dictated by **fixed expressions**.

While there are some **general guidelines** to follow, many prepositions are used **idiomatically** with certain verbs.

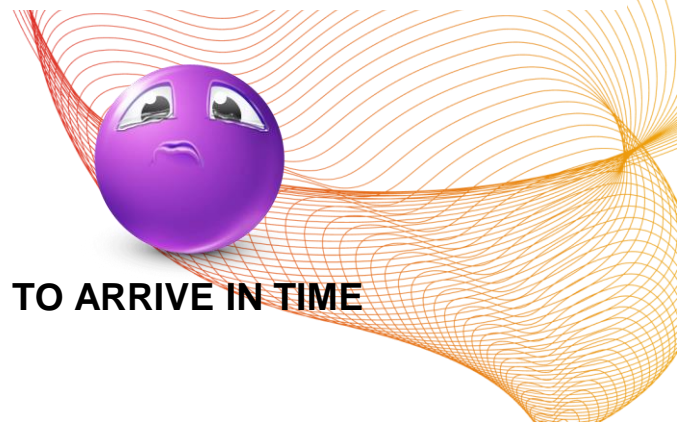
In these cases, it is best to memorize the phrase instead of the individual preposition.



IT DEPENDS FROM



INTERESTED AT



TO ARRIVE IN TIME

Prepositions: The Basics

Here you have some examples:



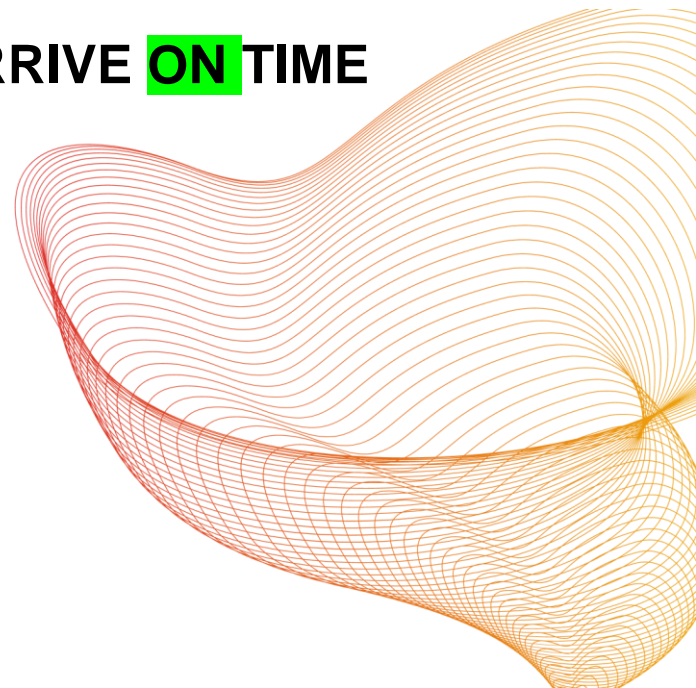
IT DEPENDS **ON**



TO ARRIVE **ON** TIME



INTERESTED **IN**





Prepositions of TIME

A PERIOD



Preposition	English Usage	Example
in	- months/seasons	- <i>Courtyard renovations start in April.</i>
	- years	- <i>The building was completed in 2015.</i>
	- time of day	- <i>The plumber will arrive in the afternoon.</i>
	- centuries and historical periods	- <i>Courtyards were commonly used in the 18th century.</i>

SPECIFIC

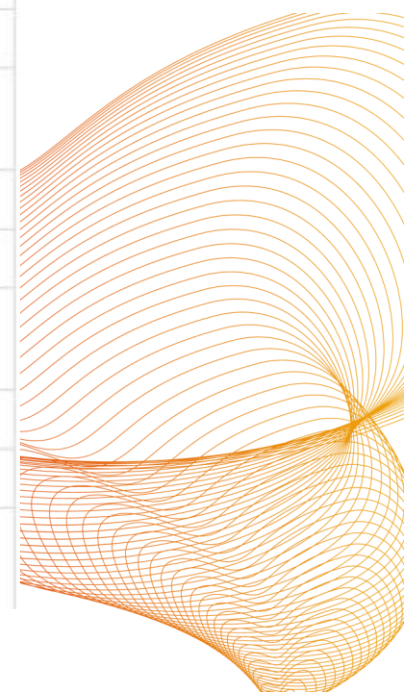


at	- after a certain period of time	- <i>The pipes will be replaced in two days.</i>
	- specific time of day	- <i>The maintenance team meets at 10:00.</i>
	- noon, night, and midnight	- <i>The fountains in the courtyard are turned off at midnight.</i>
	- names of mealtimes	- <i>The architect arrives at lunchtime.</i>
	- age	- <i>I first studied plumbing at 18.</i>

DAYS



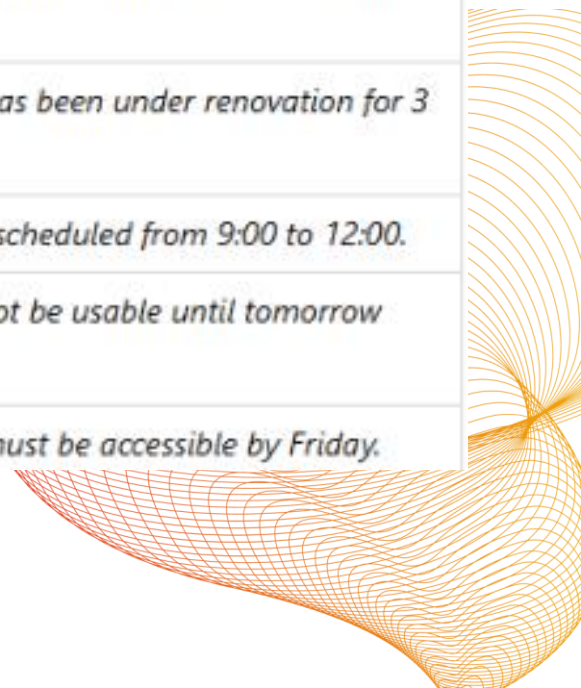
on	- days of the week	- <i>The courtyard inspection is scheduled on Tuesday.</i>
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Prepositions of TIME

since	- from a period of time up to the present (start time)	- <i>They have been using this plumbing system since 1995.</i>
for	- how long a period of time has been	- <i>The courtyard has been under renovation for 3 weeks.</i>
from...to...	- beginning and end of a period of time	- <i>The repairs are scheduled from 9:00 to 12:00.</i>
until	- period of time up to a specific point	- <i>The pipes will not be usable until tomorrow morning.</i>
by	- in the sense of "at the latest," due date	- <i>The courtyard must be accessible by Friday.</i>





Prepositions of PLACE



- when something is in a place, it is inside it
 (enclosed within limits)

- *The pipes are installed in the courtyard walls.*

- *We stored the equipment in the shed.*

- *The plumber is in the courtyard.*



- located at a specific place (a point)

- *The architect will meet us at the entrance of the courtyard.*

- for events

- *A community event was held at the courtyard.*

- place where you are to do something typical

- *The workers are at the construction site.*



- being on a surface (not enclosed)

- *The new tiles are laid on the courtyard floor.*

- for a certain side

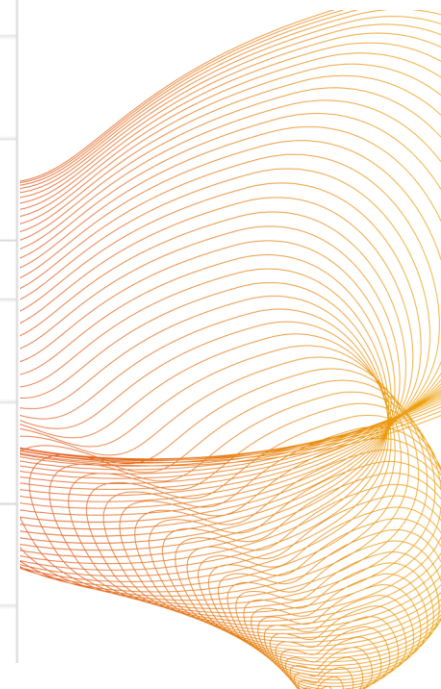
- *The drainage pipes are located on the left side of the garden.*

- for a floor in a building

- *The balcony overlooks the courtyard on the third floor.*

- for public transport

- *Materials were delivered on a truck.*



Prepositions of PLACE

to

- moving toward a specific place (the goal or end point of movement)

- *The workers brought the tools to the courtyard.*

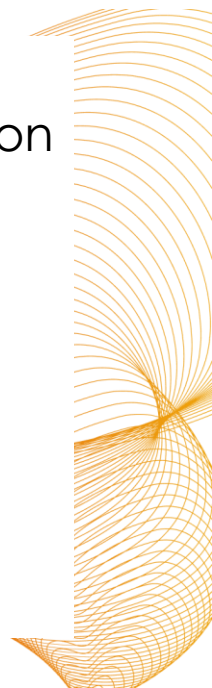
Above & Over

These prepositions can be **interchangeable**, but the most common usage is this:

- Use above when there is no movement.
- Use over when there is movement.

Examples

- There is a painting **above** the sofa. *(no movement)*
- The chandelier hangs **above** the dining room table. *(no movement)*
- The plane flew **over** the building. *(movement)*





Prepositions of PLACE

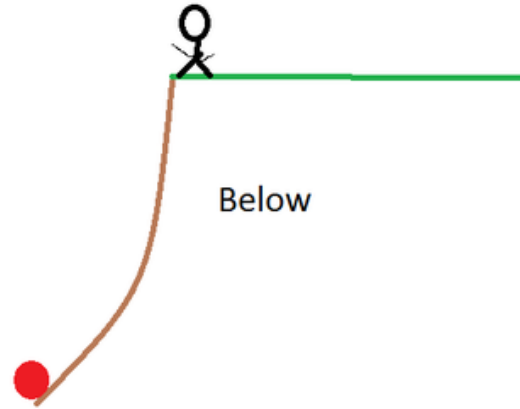
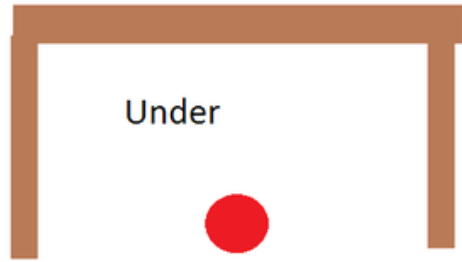
Below & Under

These prepositions are often used **interchangeably**, but there are some **key distinctions**.

- Use '**under**' in most cases, as it is **more commonly used** than 'below.'
- Use '**below**' when referring to **something that is positioned lower than a certain reference point or level** (e.g., beneath a certain height or in a sub-level space).



▶ Prepositions of PLACE

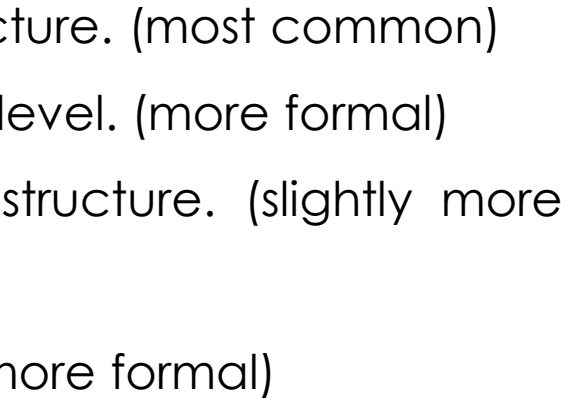


Below & Under

- The underground parking lot is located **under** the building's main level.
- The air conditioning system is installed in the room **below** the main floor. (positioned at a lower level)

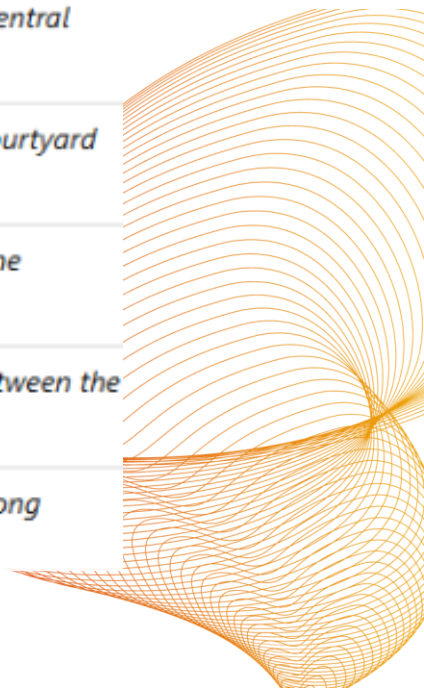
Prepositions of PLACE

What about beneath and underneath?

- The support beams are placed **under** the structure. (most common)
 - The foundation walls are **beneath** the surface level. (more formal)
 - The elevator shaft is **underneath** the main structure. (slightly more formal)
 - The piping runs **beneath** the flooring system. (more formal)
- 

Prepositions of PLACE

from	- for the origin or starting point	- <i>They transported the bricks from the warehouse.</i>
towards	- movement in the direction of something	- <i>The water flows towards the central drain in the courtyard.</i>
across	- movement from one side to another	- <i>The pipes extend across the courtyard floor.</i>
through	- movement from one side to another but "in something"	- <i>The main pipe runs through the courtyard wall.</i>
between	- a place "in the middle" of two or more separate people or things	- <i>The seating area is located between the garden and the walkway.</i>
among	- a place "surrounded" by more than two people or things together as a group	- <i>The courtyard is designed among various residential buildings.</i>



▶ 'In' or 'On' with Transportation

You should use **IN** when you are talking about a **small vehicle** or a **personal** vehicle.



Use **ON** when you are talking about a **large vehicle** or a **public** vehicle.



An **exception** to this is when you are talking about a **bicycle** or **motorcycle**. For small vehicles like those, use **ON**.





'From' or 'By'?

1. To indicate a starting point (time, range, journey, etc.)

- The materials are transported from the warehouse to the construction site at six o'clock.

2. To show distance

- The office is two kilometers from the nearest metro station.

3. To express origin

- We sourced the marble from a quarry in Italy.

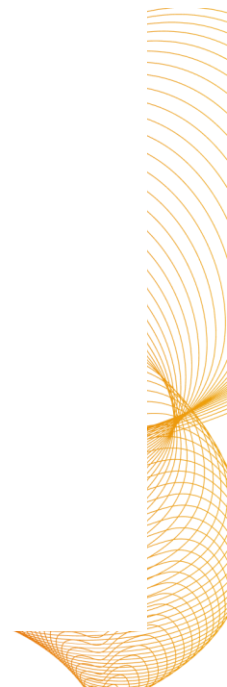
4. To talk about a change of state

- They converted the space from a factory to a co-working hub.

5. To talk about how something is manufactured

- The sustainable bricks are made from recycled materials.

FROM





'From' or 'By'?

1. To express the manner in which something is done

- Learning by sketching is essential for architecture students.

2. To introduce the subject (agent) of something, often in a passive sentence

- The structure was approved by the city council.

BY

3. To express proximity (near to)

- The new residential complex is located by the river.

4. To talk about a deadline (no later than)

- The design proposal must be submitted by Friday.



Prepositions and 'Ask'

- Use 'ask' **with 'for'** to ask somebody to give something.
- Use 'ask' **without 'for'** to ask somebody to say something.

Example: He *asked* Mary *for* a coffee.

Example: He *asked* Mary if she was available.





Complete the sentences with the correct preposition.

1. Most architects like modern design, but ____ my opinion, it's too minimalist.

(of / from / in / with)

2. Are you travelling to Paris ____ business or ____ holiday?

(for / on / to / in)

3. Have you read the article ____ Architectural Digest ____ the new skyscraper design? (on - on / to - on / in - on / from - on)



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3. Have you read the article ____ Architectural Digest ____ the new skyscraper design? (on - on / to - on / **in - on / from - on)**



 **Complete the sentences with the correct preposition.**


4. What's that book _____? (about / to / from / of)

5. I stayed _____ the Ritz Hotel _____ my stay in New York.

(in - to / to - while / at - while / at - during)

6. I looked this term _____ in the dictionary, but I still don't understand it.

(from / on / up / over)



 **Complete the sentences with the correct preposition.**

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(in - to / to - while / at - while / **at - during**)

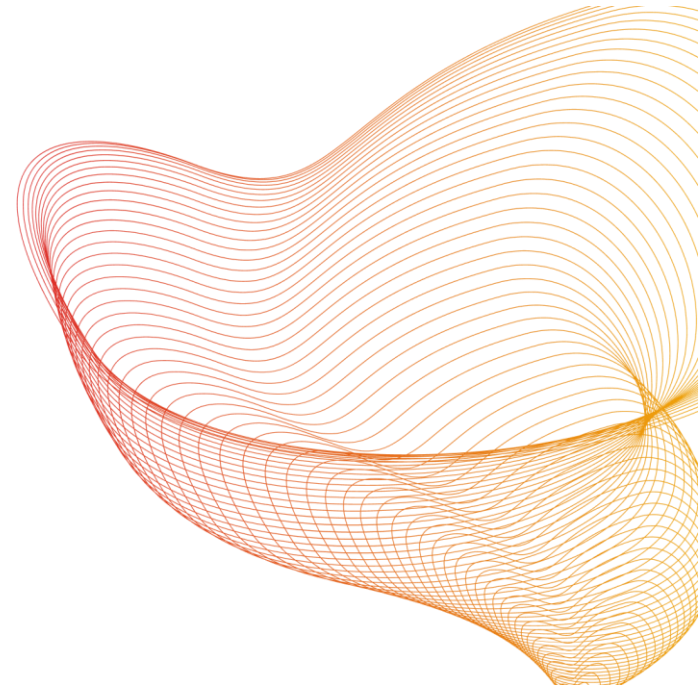
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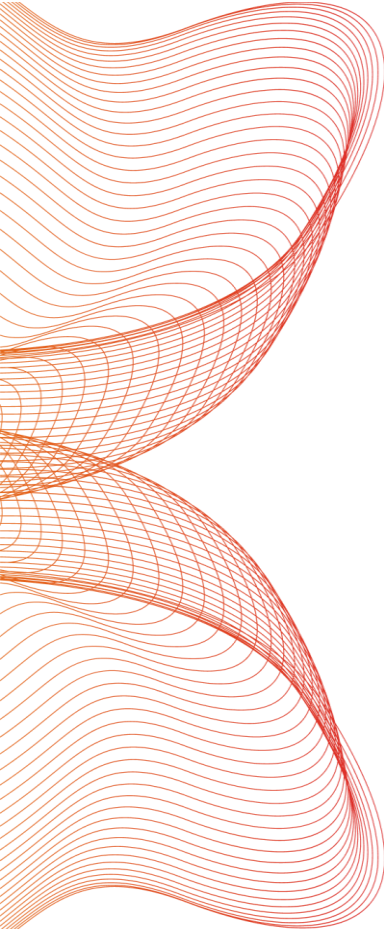


Unit 2 – Reading Comprehension

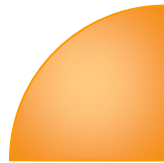




Spatial Equity in Urban Infrastructures: Public Restrooms Addressing Women's Needs


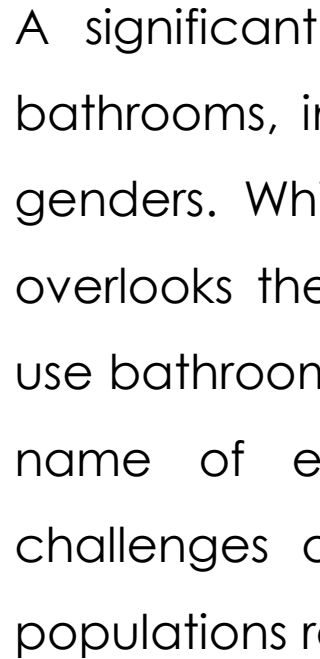


The design of public bathrooms and changing facilities has historically catered to a generalized notion of user needs, often oversimplifying the complexities of gender-specific requirements and falling short of supporting the unique needs of women. These needs extend beyond biological differences—such as the necessity for more stall privacy and differences in height and body posture—to include cultural factors that influence restroom use and expectations over time.




Mt Tung-Yen Public Toilet





A significant design shift in recent years has been the rise of unisex bathrooms, intended to promote equality **by standardizing** facilities for all genders. While this approach appears equitable on the surface, it often overlooks the biological and cultural differences in how different genders use bathrooms. **By homogenizing** bathroom spaces and fixture counts in the name of equality, are designers simply sidestepping the nuanced challenges of spatial equity? Achieving genuine user equity in diverse populations requires more than uniformity.



The Hidden Impact of Time in Achieving Gender Equity in Public Restrooms

Creating genuine gender equity in restroom design involves more than simple metrics; other factors, such as time spent in facilities, are often overlooked. Studies show that women typically require more time in restrooms—averaging 1 minute 30 seconds compared to men's 1 minute. In a five-stall restroom, this difference means that in 15 minutes, approximately 50 women could use the restroom compared to 75 men, creating a notable disparity. How can we design better to address the often-imbalanced waiting times for public bathrooms, frequently with a significantly longer queue for female stalls? While no single approach may fully address all aspects of restroom equity, regularly assessing fixture count, spatial allocation, and user convenience is crucial in evolving restroom design to more inclusively meet diverse needs.

Say whether the following statements are True or False.

1. According to the text, the design of public bathrooms has often:

- A) overlooked women's needs
- B) overestimated women's needs
- C) overseen women's needs
- D) streamlined women's needs

2. What are some specific needs mentioned for women in public bathrooms?

- A) Ergonomic seats
- B) More privacy in the compartments
- C) Bigger mirrors outside the compartments
- D) Higher compartments

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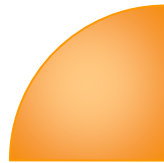


Say whether the following statements are True or False.

3. What has been a major change in bathroom design recently?

- A) More private spaces
- B) Larger bathroom spaces
- C) Unisex facilities for everyone
- D) Separate areas for each gender

4. What is a potential issue with making bathrooms the same for all genders?

- A) It increases cleaning costs
 - B) It ignores some specific needs of each group
 - C) It makes bathrooms harder to find
 - D) It reduces privacy for everyone
- 

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- D) It reduces privacy for everyone

Say whether the following statements are True or False.

5. According to the text, why do women often spend more time in restrooms than men?

- A) Due to a traditional difference in average time needed
- B) Due to a peculiar difference in average time needed
- C) Due to a customary difference in average time needed
- D) Due to a typical difference in average time needed

6. What is one suggested solution to help reduce waiting times in women's restrooms?

- A) Fewer mirrors
- B) Making genderless restrooms
- C) Making convenient restrooms
- D) Making comfortable restrooms

Say whether the following statements are True or False.

5. According to the text, why do women often spend more time in restrooms than men?

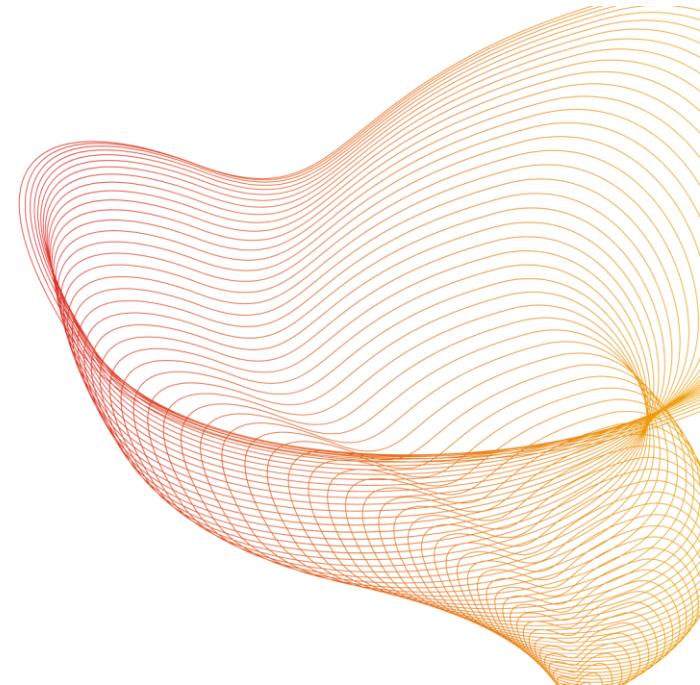
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Unit 3 – Listening Comprehension



HONG KONG ARCHITECTURE | MIDDLEMAN HONG KONG - EPISODE 6 - PARKS & TOILETS

- To stem to steam/ your self-esteem
- Manure
- Mulberry trees
- Eager to capitalize
- To levy
- To argue discuss
- To conceal the unpleasant to cancel

HONG KONG ARCHITECTURE | MIDDLEMAN HONG KONG - EPISODE 6 - PARKS & TOILETS

- A fancy building
- Crisscrossing
- Camouflaging
- Fast Forward (FFD)
- To hold (a meeting)
- Seemingly
- Implement
- What better buffer with which to control the toilet than the park?

Do you fancy?



Listen to the audio file and fill in the gaps with the words you hear.

1. Why were public toilets originally built in Hong Kong?

- A) To improve public health.
- B) As a profitable business venture.
- C) To increase the popularity of parks.
- D) To attract tourists to the city.

2. What did ordinary households in the 1880s use instead of water closets?

- A) Public toilets.
- B) Chamber pots.
- C) Private bathrooms.
- D) Park facilities.



Watch the video and choose the best option a, b, c or d.

3. What was the goal of the 1992 public toilet design competition?

- A) To make public toilets bigger and more accessible.
- B) To create a toilet design that blended with city and park areas.
- C) To make toilets look similar to high-rise buildings.
- D) To replace all older public toilets in the city.

4. Why did the government begin taxing private public toilets in the 1880s?

- A) To regulate water usage in the city.
- B) To support the upkeep of public parks.
- C) To encourage the construction of more public toilets.
- D) To generate revenue without using public funds.



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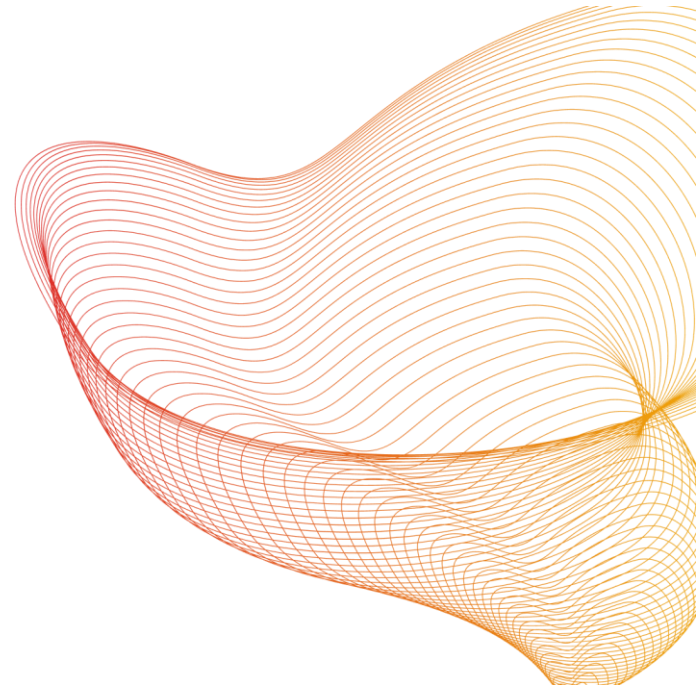
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Unit 4 – Use of English

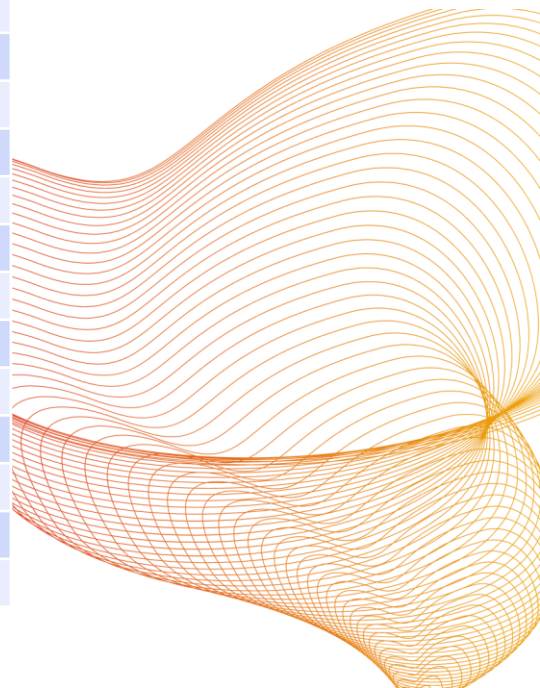




Playing with the prepositions

There is no better way to learn than practice. Here we have an example.

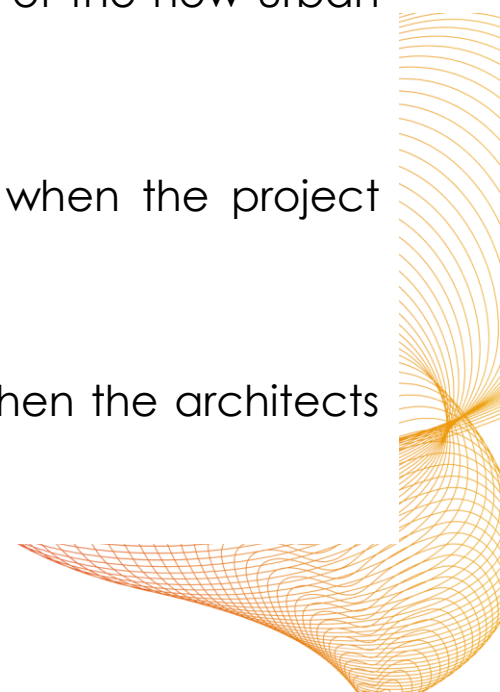
Phrase	Matching Expression
1) We're late	a) In arrears
2) Very fashionable	b) Behind the times
3) I can't pay	c) Behind bars
4) Illegal	d) By degrees
5) Simultaneous	e) At daybreak
6) Old-fashioned	f) Behind schedule
7) Very early	g) At the same time
8) A prisoner	h) Against the law
9) Gradually	i) In vogue
10) industrial dispute	j) on the agenda
11) Everyone wants it!	k) at a moment's notice
12) a board meeting	l) on the air
13) What a rush!	m) in demand
14) radio broadcast	n) on strike





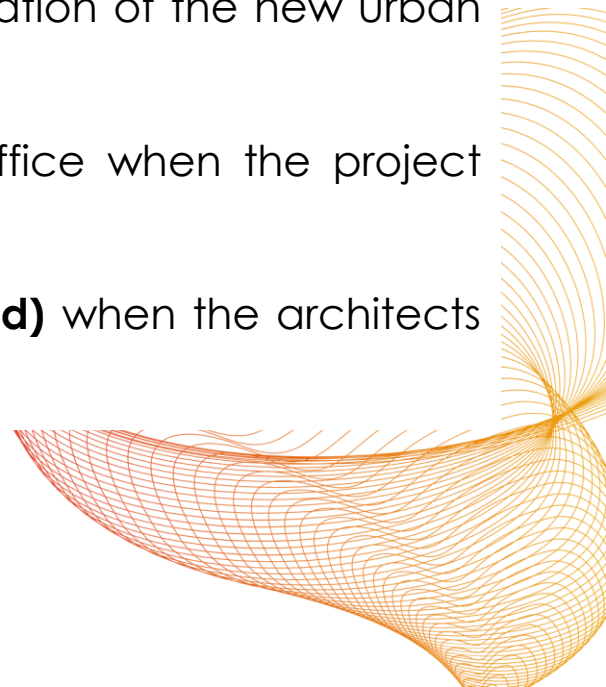
Choose the best alternative to complete each of the following sentences.

1. We arrived just **(in time/on time)** to see the presentation of the new urban project. The speaker had not yet begun his speech.
2. I was **(at the point/on the point of)** leaving the office when the project manager called.
3. Do you remember that scene **(at the end/in the end)** when the architects have a terrific argument over the design changes?



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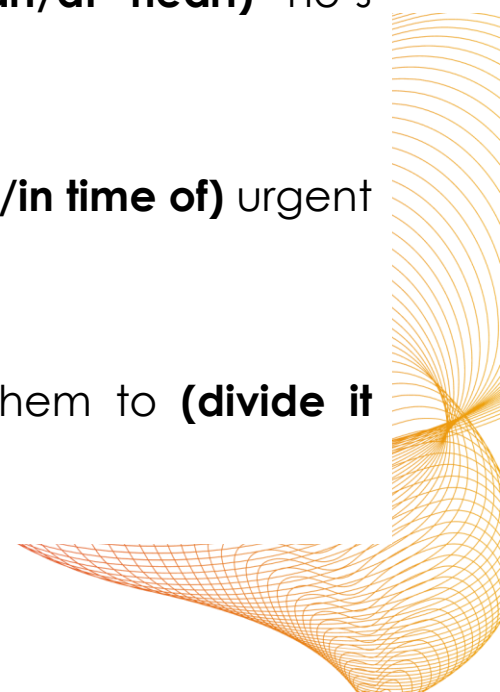


 **Choose the best alternative to complete each of the following sentences.**

4. He may seem tough and demanding, but **(by heart/at heart)** he's dedicated to sustainable design.

5. You know you can always rely on your team **(at the time of/in time of)** urgent deadlines.

6. The architect gave the interns the sketches and told them to **(divide it between/divide it among)** themselves.

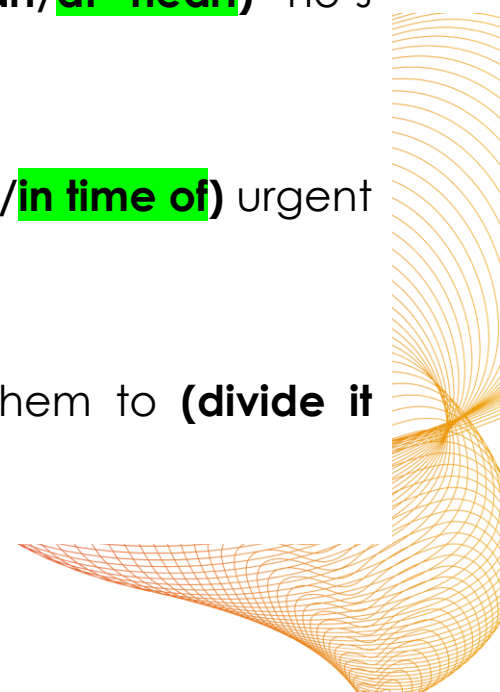


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Choose the correct option a, b, c or d.

1. I didn't trust the post, so I delivered the parcel
_____hand.

a. By b. to c. on d. out of

2. We've had such a busy day! At least ten people phoned.

Oh, _____the way, there's a message here for you from
your brother.

a. On b. in c. by d. over

Choose the correct option a, b, c or d.

1. I didn't trust the post, so I delivered the parcel
_____hand.

- a. **By** b. to c. on d. out of

2. We've had such a busy day! At least ten people phoned.
Oh, _____the way, there's a message here for you from
your brother.

- a. On b. in c. **by** d. over

Choose the correct option a, b, c or d.

3. His name is Sebastian, but we call him Seb _____
short.

a. In b. for c. as d. by

4. I have some important information for you, but I don't want
to give it _____ the phone. Do you think we could
meet somewhere?

a. By b. through c. on d. over

Choose the correct option a, b, c or d.

3. His name is Sebastian, but we call him Seb _____
short.

a. In **b. for** c. as d. by

4. I have some important information for you, but I don't want
to give it _____ the phone. Do you think we could
meet somewhere?

a. By b. through c. on d. over

The underlined expressions can be replaced by a time expression based on the word given in CAPITAL LETTERS. Supply the missing prepositions.

1. I hope to meet next month to discuss the project. Until then, best of luck with your new design.

MEANTIME

___ **IN THE MEANTIME** ___, best of luck with your new design.

2. Please be very quiet. There is a client meeting going on.

PROGRESS

There is a client meeting _____ **IN PROGRESS** _____.

The underlined expressions can be replaced by a time expression based on the word given in CAPITAL LETTERS. Supply the missing prepositions.

1. I hope to meet next month to discuss the project. Until then, best of luck with your new design.

MEANTIME

_____, *best of luck with your new design.*

2. Please be very quiet. There is a client meeting going on.

PROGRESS

*There is a client meeting*_____.



Thank you.
Please feel free to ask any questions.