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Prepositional Phrases

Cheat Sheet

275 fixed phrases across 14 prepositions

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● At (35 phrases)

at once

immediately; without delay

at stake

at risk; in danger of being lost

at fault

responsible for a mistake or problem

at length

in great detail; for a long time

at best

in the most favourable interpretation

at least

not less than; as a minimum

at times

sometimes; occasionally

at last

finally; after a long wait

at risk

in a situation of possible danger

at all costs

regardless of the price or effort

at short notice

with little warning or time to prepare

at peace

in a state of calm or tranquility

at play

engaged in playing; operating as a factor

at rest

not moving; relaxed

at face value

as it appears; without further analysis

at a guess

as a rough estimate

at all events

regardless of what happens

at cross purposes

misunderstanding each other's intentions

at large

free; not captured

at heart

fundamentally; in one's true nature

at ease

relaxed and comfortable

at random

without a definite plan or pattern

at worst

in the least favourable interpretation

at most

not more than; as a maximum

at first

in the beginning

at hand

close by; readily available

at a loss

uncertain; not knowing what to do

at any rate

whatever happens; in any case

at odds

in conflict or disagreement

at war

engaged in armed conflict

at work

at one's place of employment; operating

at will

whenever one wishes

at a glance

with a quick look

at a stretch

with difficulty; if pushed

at loggerheads

in strong disagreement

● By (20 phrases)

by heart

from memory

by accident

unintentionally

by default

because nothing else was chosen or done

by force

using physical power or violence

by law

according to legal requirements

by no means

not at all; certainly not

by rights

if justice were done; properly

by degrees

gradually; little by little

by chance

accidentally; without planning

by mistake

in error; unintentionally

by far

by a great amount

by hand

manually; without a machine

by nature

as a fundamental characteristic

by all means

of course; certainly

by turns

alternately; one after another

by and large

on the whole; generally speaking

by courtesy of
with the kind permission of

by virtue of
because of; as a result of

by dint of
by means of; through the force of

by the book
strictly following the rules

● **In** (65 phrases)

in fact
in reality; actually

in vain
without success

in turn
one after another; as a result

in advance
before a particular time

in brief
in short; to summarise

in common
shared between two or more

in control
having the power to direct something

in charge
having responsibility for

in danger
at risk of harm

in debt
owing money

in demand
wanted or sought after

in detail
thoroughly; with full particulars

in doubt
uncertain; not sure

in earnest
seriously; with genuine intent

in effect
in practice; essentially

in essence
fundamentally; at its core

in exchange
as a swap or trade

in full
completely; with nothing missing

in general
usually; for the most part

in good faith
with honest intentions

in hand
under control; being dealt with

in haste
quickly; in a hurry

in lieu of
instead of; as a replacement for

in light of
considering; because of

in line with
consistent with; following

in moderation
in reasonable amounts; not excessively

in motion
moving; not stationary

in need
requiring help or support

in particular
especially; specifically

in person
physically present; not remotely

in place
in position; established

in practice
in reality; when actually done

in principle
in theory; as a general idea

in private
not in public; confidentially

in public
in the presence of others

in question
being discussed or considered

in return
as a response or repayment

in secret
without others knowing

in short
briefly; to summarise

in stock
available for purchase

in store
going to happen; waiting

in succession
one after another

in theory
as an idea; not necessarily in reality

in time
eventually; before a deadline

in touch
in contact or communication

in trouble
in a difficult or dangerous situation

in tune
in harmony; at the correct pitch

in use
currently being used

in view of
considering; because of

in bulk
in large quantities

in hindsight

looking back; with the benefit of experience

in disguise

wearing a disguise; hidden

in force

in operation; valid

in pursuit of

trying to achieve or catch

in season

available at the right time of year

in terms of

with regard to; concerning

in the long run

over a long period of time

in the wake of

following; as a consequence of

in custody

being held by the police

in flames

on fire; burning

in progress

happening now; underway

in ruins

destroyed; in a state of collapse

in spite of

despite; regardless of

in the dark

uninformed; not knowing

in the meantime

during the time before something happens

On (41 phrases)**on purpose**

intentionally; deliberately

on occasion

sometimes; from time to time

on balance

considering everything

on call

available to work if needed

on display

shown publicly

on edge

nervous; anxious

on fire

burning; performing exceptionally well

on guard

alert and watchful

on hold

paused; waiting

on loan

lent temporarily

on oath

having sworn to tell the truth

on paper

in theory; as written

on principle

because of one's beliefs

on reflection

after careful thought

on schedule

at the planned time

on sight

as soon as seen

on the contrary

the opposite is true

on the grounds of

because of a stated reason

on the whole

in general; overall

on behalf of

as a representative of

on foot

walking

on board

on a ship, plane, or vehicle; in agreement

on demand

whenever requested

on duty

currently working

on file

recorded and stored

on good terms

having a friendly relationship

on hand

available; ready to help

on impulse

without thinking beforehand

on no account

under no circumstances

on one's own

alone; without help

on par with

equal to; at the same level as

on record

officially documented

on sale

available to buy; at a reduced price

on second thought

after reconsidering

on strike

refusing to work as a protest

on the go

very busy and active

on the verge of

very close to; about to

on time

punctually; at the scheduled time

on top of

in addition to; on the surface of

on track

making the expected progress

on trial

being judged in court; being tested

For (18 phrases)**for good**

permanently; forever

for free

without charge

for granted

without proper appreciation

for instance

as an example

for life

for the rest of one's life

for real

genuinely; not pretending

for short

as an abbreviation

for the record

so that it is officially noted

for the time being

temporarily; for now

for certain

without doubt

for fun

for enjoyment; not seriously

for hire

available to rent

for keeps

permanently; to keep

for now

temporarily; for the present

for sale

available to buy

for sure

definitely; certainly

for the sake of

in order to help or preserve

for want of

because of a lack of

Out of (23 phrases)**out of breath**

panting; having difficulty breathing

out of control

no longer manageable

out of danger

no longer at risk

out of hand

out of control; immediately

out of order

not working; broken

out of practice

having not done something for a while

out of proportion

not in correct relation; exaggerated

out of sight

not visible

out of the blue

unexpectedly; without warning

out of the question

impossible; not worth considering

out of tune

not at the correct pitch; not in harmony

out of work

unemployed

out of bounds

outside the permitted area

out of context

without the surrounding information

out of date

no longer current or valid

out of luck

unfortunate; unable to get what one wants

out of place

not fitting in; inappropriate

out of print

no longer available from the publisher

out of reach

impossible to get or achieve

out of stock

not available; sold out

out of the ordinary

unusual; not normal

out of touch

not aware of current events or feelings

out of turn

at a wrong or inappropriate time

● Under (15 phrases)

under arrest

detained by police

under consideration

being thought about

under control

being managed; not out of hand

under fire

being shot at; being criticised

under oath

having sworn to tell the truth

under suspicion

suspected of wrongdoing

under the influence

affected by alcohol or drugs

under way

in progress; having started

under attack

being attacked

under construction

being built

under cover

sheltered; in disguise

under no circumstances

never; not for any reason

under pressure

experiencing stress or demands

under the impression

believing something, possibly mistakenly

under the weather

feeling slightly ill

● Beyond (7 phrases)

beyond belief

too extraordinary to believe

beyond reach

impossible to get or achieve

beyond repair

too damaged to be fixed

beyond question

certain; undeniable

beyond doubt

certain; unquestionable

beyond recognition

changed so much as to be unidentifiable

beyond reproach

so good as to be above criticism

● Off (11 phrases)

off balance

unsteady; surprised

off guard

unprepared; not expecting something

off limits

not allowed; forbidden

off the cuff

without preparation; spontaneous

off the mark

inaccurate; wrong

off the top of one's head

from memory; without research

off duty

not currently working

off hand

without preparation; casually

off record

not for official publication

off the hook

no longer in trouble

off the record

not to be publicly reported

● Without (7 phrases)

without a doubt

certainly; definitely

without exception

with no one or nothing excluded

without notice

with no warning given

without warning

unexpectedly; suddenly

without delay

immediately; at once

without fail

always; definitely

without question

certainly; without any doubt

● **Within** (6 phrases)

within bounds

inside acceptable limits

within earshot

close enough to hear

within limits

up to a certain point

within reach

close enough to touch or achieve

within reason

as long as it is sensible

within sight

close enough to see

● **To** (10 phrases)

to a degree

partly; to some extent

to a certain extent

partly; not completely

to date

until now

to some extent

partly

to the point

relevant; concise

to the full

as much as possible

to the letter

exactly; precisely

to no avail

without success

to the contrary

indicating the opposite

to excess

too much; beyond what is reasonable

● **From** (8 phrases)

from memory

using what one remembers

from scratch

from the very beginning

from time to time

occasionally

from now on

starting from this moment

from head to toe

completely; all over the body

from start to finish

throughout the entire process

from the outset

from the very beginning

from afar

from a long distance

● **With** (9 phrases)

with ease

without difficulty

with regard to

concerning; about

with the exception of

excluding; apart from

with respect to

concerning; in relation to

with a view to

with the aim of

with flying colours

with great success

with caution

carefully

with effect from

starting from a particular date

with intent

deliberately; on purpose