



Unit 64 – Prepositions of Movement (*He climbed over.. The kids ran across the field..*)

A) **Across** has two main meanings; it can be used as a preposition (prep) or an adverb (adv). It can mean *on* the other side of something (e.g.: a street) or *movement from one side to the other* of something such as a river or city.

- i) 'from one side to the other' – We took a ferry **across** the river.
- ii) 'moving (or looking) from one side of a place to the other' – The airlines offers flights **across** the Atlantic.
– The kids ran **across** the field to meet us.
- iii) 'reaching from one side of a space to the other' – There are 12 bridges **across** the Han River in Seoul.
– He looked unhappy with his arms folded **across** his chest.
- iv) 'to show the width of something' – The river is just half a mile **across** in some locations.
- v) 'on the other side of a road, river, etc.' – There is an ATM just **across** the street.
– The company recently opened a factory **across** the border.
- vi) 'in many parts of an area/region' – The bank has locations all **across** Europe.
- vii) 'to say that something affects a part of the body' – I felt a burning sensation **across** my forehead.
– He suffered a cut **across** his leg in the accident.
- viii) 'to say that something spreads to a given limit' – A smile appeared **across** my daughter's face.
– Clashes with police spread **across** the city.

B) **Over** – mainly used as a preposition or an adverb to indicate something at a higher position than something else (e.g.: over the city) or involving movement from one side to another (e.g.: the plane flew over the region):

- i) 'in a higher position than something else without contact' – There is a picture hanging **over** the sofa.
– I live in an apartment **over** a supermarket.
- ii) 'to cover something or someone' – I put my hands **over** my ears to block out the noise.
- iii) 'movement across something' – The jets flew directly **over** our heads during the airshow!
- iv) 'to cross something high such as a wall' – The inmates escaped by climbing **over** the prison walls.
- v) 'to many places within an area/region' – Wildfires have spread **over** the entire region.
– When I got back there was paper all **over** my desk.
- vi) 'in or to a particular place' – Why don't you come **over** (visit) for lunch sometime?
– The kids went **over** to their friend's place to play video games.

Note: -> **Above** has a different meaning than **over**; it means 'higher than'. For example:

-> Could you raise your hands **above** your shoulders?

C) **Through** – There are two main contexts in which to understand the use of *through*:

- i) **Movement** – when something moves from one side to the other but *in* something, such as a forest:
-> My dogs just love to run **through** the open fields behind my house.
- ii) **Time** – When referring to a period of time from start to finish:
-> The museum is open Monday **through** Friday, from 9-5pm.

D) **Below / Under / Underneath / Beneath**

- i) **Below** – used most often as a preposition meaning 'lower than'. It also implies no contact:
-> There are some plants hanging **below** the window. (*there is no contact between the plants and window*)
-> **Teacher:** 'Open to page 12. **Below** the picture, there is a series of questions.'
-> Profit is **below** what analysts had predicted for the company. (*used in a business context*)
- ii) **Under** also means something 'lower than' but indicates contact with or close contact (and is often unseen):
-> There are some books **under** the desk. The cat is **under** the table. Don't sweep it **under** the carpet!
-> Kids **under** the age of five are not permitted on this ride. (*referring to age*)
-> Suitcases must be **under** 50lbs to avoid any extra charges. (*referring to weight*)
- iii) **Underneath** is similar to under, but it usually refers to position and implies 'something unseen'. For example:
-> The criminal kept the stolen money **underneath** the floorboards.
-> Mom keeps her baking supplies **underneath** the counter. (*under can also be used more casually here*)
- iv) **Beneath** = has a similar meaning but implies 'lurking'. -> There was a shark **beneath** the surface of the water.



Unit 64 – Exercises:

64.1 – Complete the sentences with **across** or **over**; the more likely answer. Both **across** and **over** may be possible in some examples. **(64-A/B)**

1. The cat jumped _____ the wall and disappeared.
2. The snake slithered _____ the grass towards the river.
3. Drug traffickers operate _____ international boundaries.
4. One of my favorite memories of the trip was when we flew _____ the Alps.
5. Following the Covid-19 outbreak, racist attacks increased _____ the U.S.
6. **A:** Excuse me, where's the nearest bank?
B: There's one _____ the street beside the market. You'll need to cross _____ at the next intersection.
7. On my first day of school, I remember mom leaned _____ and kissed me on the forehead before first class.

64.2 – Complete the sentences with **across** or **through**. In one example, both answers are possible. **(64-A/C)**

1. We had to drive _____ the storm and at some points we couldn't see anything in front of us.
2. To get to the station, you need to go _____ the park and turn right at the gate.
3. If you ever wanted to walk _____ the Golden Gate bridge, it would take about 30 minutes.
4. We saw him _____ a gap in the fence. He looked like he was running _____ the street.
5. Transportation is really good in Seoul. You can get _____ town pretty quickly when you need to.
6. Small shops will stay open _____ the holidays. It's just the larger shops that will close.
7. Hey! Did you see that car? It just drove straight _____ that red light!
8. One of the items on my bucket list is to take a train _____ the Rocky Mountains in Canada someday!

64.3 – Complete with **below**, **under**, **underneath** or **beneath**. More than one answer may be possible. **(64-D)**

1. The city of New Orleans is famous for being _____ sea level.
2. My dog loves to hide his bone _____ a bush in the garden.
3. Wear warm clothes today! The temperature is going to be _____ zero.
4. If you lift up the stone with a stick, you will find lots of insects living _____ it.
5. What a beautiful boat ride today. You could even see dolphins _____ the surface of the water!
6. I was in one of the upper floors of the hotel and could see a river down _____.
7. My niece is so cute! She left a tooth _____ her pillow for the tooth fairy last night.
8. The kitten was too small to jump over the gate, so it crawled _____ the bottom bar.
9. The school has a strict dress code for girls. All skirts are to be worn _____ the knee.
10. This jacket is just way too big, even when I wear a sweater on _____!
11. If you're a superstitious person, you'd never dare walk _____ a ladder!
12. Jeff wasn't looking and the ball hit him right in the chest; just _____ the shoulder.

64.4 – Complete the sentences with the most appropriate colloquial expression related to **under / over / above**.

under the weather / under pressure / under control / all over the place
above and beyond / above all / go over / go overboard / under arrest

1. My old roommate in college would leave his socks lying _____ and it really annoyed me!
2. It took almost 100 firemen to bring the office building fire _____.
3. I like to _____ my notes just before I start an exam. It helps me stay focused.
4. In my job interview, I was asked about a time that I went _____ to help my clients.
5. I admire her ability to work _____. She always keeps her composure, no matter what.
6. I hear you've been a bit _____ recently. Are you feeling better now?
7. Our products are superior in terms of variety, quality and _____, reliability.
8. There won't be more than six people coming to the party so I wouldn't _____ with the food.
9. The police officer yelled at the suspect, 'Hold it right there, you're _____!'