

# Prepositions for IELTS Task 1 Academic

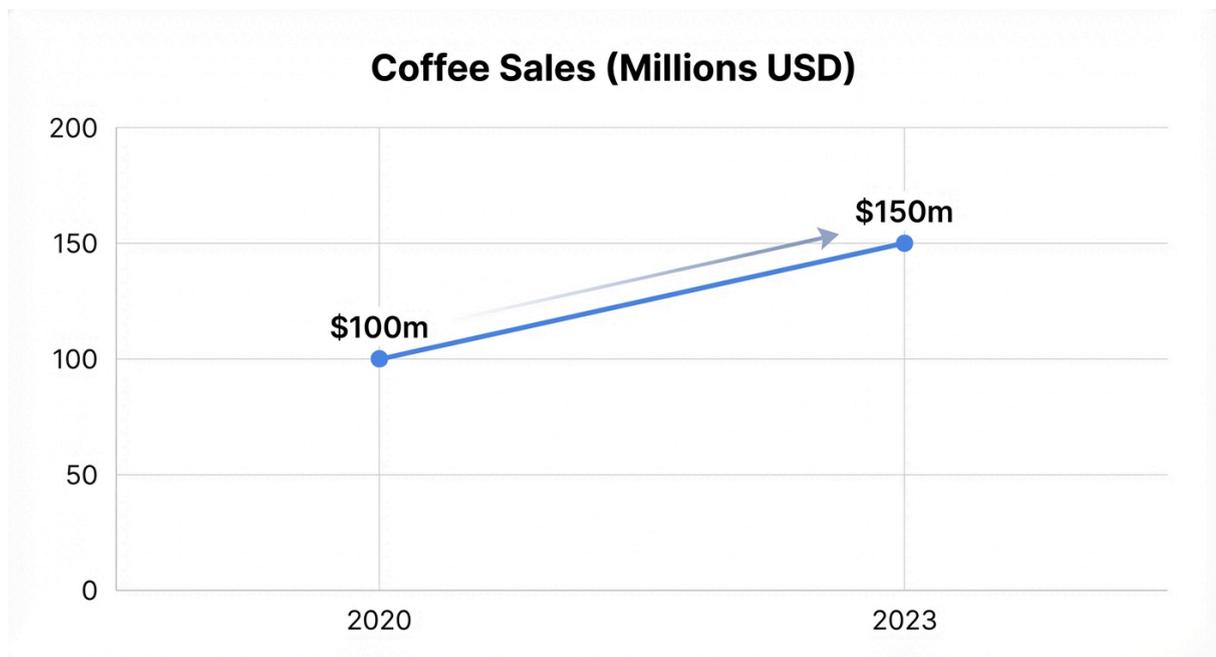
## The "Golden Rule" of Task 1 Prepositions

Remember the three distinct functions:

1. **IN:** The Topic (What category changed?)
2. **OF / BY:** The Amount (How big was the math change?)
3. **TO / AT:** The Destination/Position (Where is the point on the Y-axis?)

## Section 1: The "What" and The "How Much" (Nouns vs. Verbs)

Look at **Graph A** below. We are tracking the topic of "Coffee Sales".



### 1. The Topic: What category changed? (Noun + IN)

When using a noun phrase to describe the overall trend, use **IN** to connect it to the topic title.

- **Visual Check (Graph A):** What is the chart about?
- **Example:** There was a clear rise **in** coffee sales between 2020 and 2023.

## 2. The Amount: How big was the mathematical change?

This is the crucial rule. We need to calculate the difference (\$150m minus \$100m = \$50m change).

The preposition depends on whether the trend word is a NOUN or a VERB.

### A) The Noun Rule (+ OF)

If you use a noun phrase to describe the change, use **OF** before the amount.

- **Visual Check (Graph A):** The total growth is \$50m.
- **Example:** The company saw growth **of** \$50m. (Noun phrase: "saw growth")

### B) The Verb Rule (+ BY)

If you use a verb to describe the change, use **BY** before the amount.

- **Visual Check (Graph A):** The line went up **by** an increment of \$50m.
- **Example:** Sales increased **by** \$50m. (Verb: "increased")

## ✓ Visual Practice Check 1

Refer to Graph A above and fill in the correct prepositions (*in, of, by*).

1. The chart shows a significant rise \_\_\_\_\_ revenue from coffee.
2. Between 2020 and 2023, sales grew \_\_\_\_\_ \$50 million dollars.
3. The period witnessed an overall increase \_\_\_\_\_ \$50 million.

## Section 2: Destinations and Static Points

Look at **Graph B**. This graph shows movement up and down, and points where it stops.



## 1. Movement Towards a Point (Verb movement + TO)

Use **TO** with verbs of movement (rise, fall, drop, jump) to show the *new* level on the Y-axis that the data reached.

- **Visual Check (Graph B):** Look at Day 1 to Day 5. Where did the line end up?
- **Example:** The number of visitors rose dramatically **to** 25k on Day 5.
- **Example:** After the peak, numbers fell back down **to** 15k.

## 2. Static Points (AT)

Use **AT** for specific points where the data is not currently moving. This includes starting points, peaks (the very highest point), and periods of stability.

- **Visual Check (Graph B):** Look at the start, the highest point, and the flat line at the end.
- **Example (Start):** The figure started **at** 5k on Day 1.
- **Example (Peak):** Visitor numbers peaked **at** 25k.
- **Example (Stable):** From Day 10 onwards, the numbers remained stable **at** 15k.

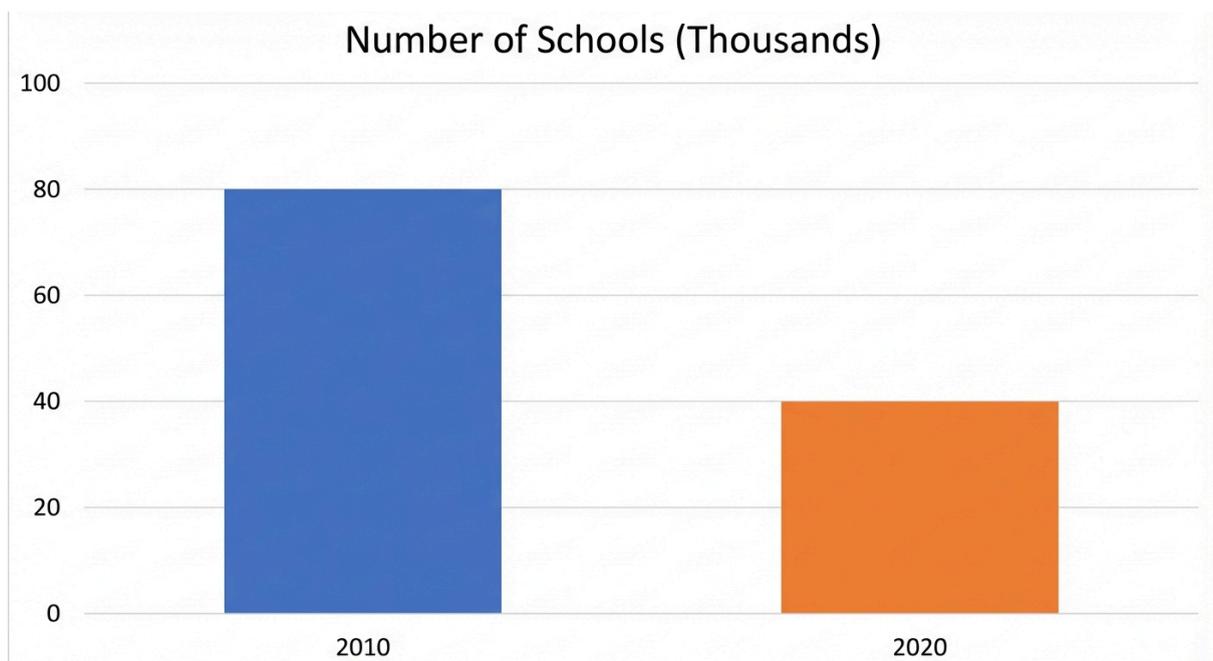
## ✔ Visual Practice Check 2

Refer to Graph B above and fill in the correct prepositions (*to, at*).

1. At the beginning of the month, visitor numbers stood \_\_\_\_\_ 5,000.
2. Following the surge in traffic, numbers dropped \_\_\_\_\_ 15,000 on Day 10.
3. The graph reached its highest point \_\_\_\_\_ 25,000 visitors on Day 5.
4. Visitor numbers leveled off \_\_\_\_\_ 15,000 for the remainder of the period.

## Section 3: Describing Time Periods

Look at **Graph C**. We are looking at the X-axis (time).



### The Two Crucial Time Pairs

You must use these pairs together to define the start and end of the X-axis period. Do not mix them up (e.g., never say "between 1990 to 2000").

- **Pair A: FROM... TO...**
  - **Visual Check (Graph C):** The trend starts at the 2010 mark and finishes at the 2020 mark.

- **Example:** The number of schools fell dramatically **from** 2010 **to** 2020.
- **Pair B: BETWEEN... AND...**
  - **Visual Check (Graph C):** The trend happens in the space between the two dates.
  - **Example:** A significant decrease in school numbers was seen **between** 2010 **and** 2020.

### ✔ Visual Practice Check 3

Refer to Graph C above and fill in the correct prepositions (*from, to, between, and*).

1. The graph shows a significant decline in the number of schools \_\_\_\_\_ 2010 \_\_\_\_\_ 2020. (Use Pair A)
2. A negative trend was observed \_\_\_\_\_ 2010 \_\_\_\_\_ 2020. (Use Pair B)

### Summary Table for Quick Review

Function	Grammar Focus	Preposition	Example
<b>Topic</b>	Noun form	<b>IN</b>	An increase <b>in</b> prices.
<b>Amount</b>	Noun form	<b>OF</b>	An increase <b>of</b> \$10.
<b>Amount</b>	Verb form	<b>BY</b>	Prices increased <b>by</b> \$10.
<b>Destination</b>	Verb (movement)	<b>TO</b>	Prices increased <b>to</b> \$50.
<b>Position</b>	Verb (static)	<b>AT</b>	Prices peaked <b>at</b> \$60.
<b>Time Pair A</b>	N/A	<b>BETWEEN... AND...</b>	<b>Between</b> 2010 <b>and</b> 2020.
<b>Time Pair B</b>	N/A	<b>FROM... TO...</b>	<b>From</b> 2010 <b>to</b> 2020.

## Answer Key

### Practice Check 1 (Graph A):

1. in (Topic)
2. by (Amount + Verb "grew")

3. of (Amount + Noun "increase")

**Practice Check 2 (Graph B):**

1. at (Static starting point)
2. to (Destination of movement)
3. at (Static peak point)
4. at (Static stable point)

**Practice Check 3 (Graph C):**

1. from / to
2. between / and

## Extra Practice Questions:

**Instructions:** Look at the graphs provided and complete the sentences below by choosing the correct preposition from the box. You may use prepositions more than once.

**Preposition Box**

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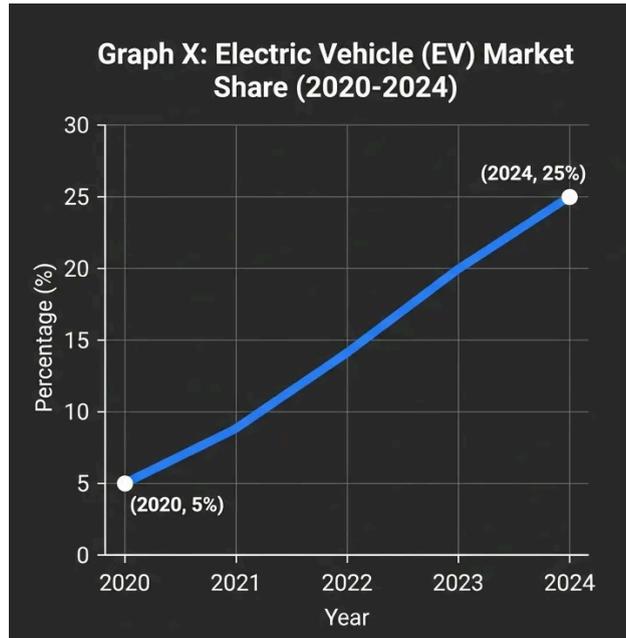
IN / OF / BY / TO / AT / FROM... TO... / BETWEEN... AND...

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### Part 1: Topic, Amount, and Time

**Refer to Graph X: Electric Vehicle (EV) Market Share (2020-2024)**

*This line graph shows the percentage of total car sales that were electric vehicles over a four-year period.*



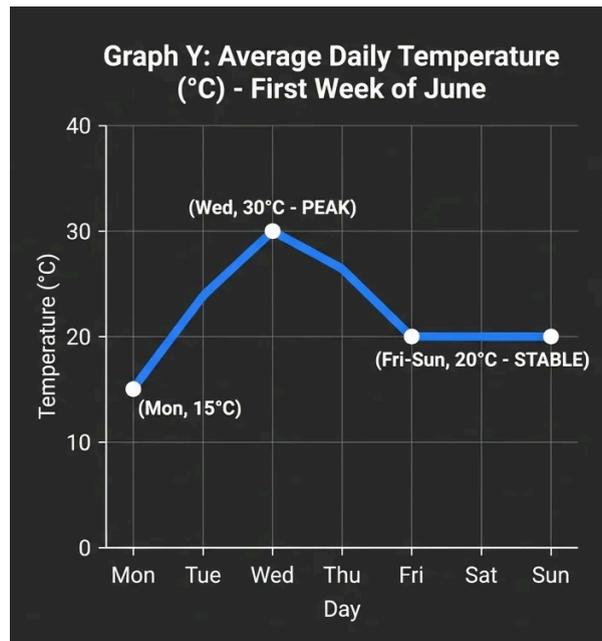
**Questions 1–6:**

1. The graph illustrates a significant rise \_\_\_\_\_ the market share of electric vehicles.
2. Over the four-year period, the market share grew \_\_\_\_\_ 20%. (Hint: Calculate the difference between start and finish).
3. There was an overall increase \_\_\_\_\_ 20 percentage points in EV sales.
4. The proportion of electric vehicles sold rose steadily \_\_\_\_\_ 2020 \_\_\_\_\_ 2024.
5. A substantial shift in buying habits was observed \_\_\_\_\_ 2020 \_\_\_\_\_ 2024.
6. By the end of the period, the market share had increased \_\_\_\_\_ 5% in 2020 to 25% in 2024. (Hint: This is a destination).

**Part 2: Destinations and Static Points**

**Refer to Graph Y: Average Daily Temperature (°C) - First Week of June**

*This graph tracks the fluctuating average temperature over one week.*



**Questions 7–12:**

1. On Monday, the average temperature stood \_\_\_\_\_ 15 degrees Celsius.
2. Temperatures rose sharply over the next two days, reaching a peak \_\_\_\_\_ 30°C on Wednesday.
3. Following the midweek high, the temperature dropped back down \_\_\_\_\_ 20°C by Friday.
4. The graph shows that temperatures peaked \_\_\_\_\_ Wednesday. (Hint: This is a point in time, not a measurement value, but uses the same static rule).
5. From Friday through Sunday, the temperature remained stable \_\_\_\_\_ 20°C.
6. The temperature climbed \_\_\_\_\_ 15°C between Monday and Wednesday. (Hint: Calculate the amount of change).

-END OF TEST-  
Answers Below:

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## Answer Key

### Part 1: Topic, Amount, and Time (Graph X)

1. **IN** (Rule: The Topic - what category changed?)
2. **BY** (Rule: The Amount - verb "grew" + by + calculation [25-5=20])
3. **OF** (Rule: The Amount - noun phrase "an overall increase" + of + calculation [25-5=20])
4. **FROM... TO...** (Rule: Time Pair A)
5. **BETWEEN... AND...** (Rule: Time Pair B)
6. **TO** (Rule: The Destination - verb "increased" indicating movement towards the new point of 25%)

### Part 2: Destinations and Static Points (Graph Y)

1. **AT** (Rule: Static Point - starting point)
2. **AT** (Rule: Static Point - the highest point/peak)
3. **TO** (Rule: Destination - movement verb "dropped back down" towards a new level)
4. **AT** (Rule: Static Point - identifying the specific point in time where the peak occurred)
5. **AT** (Rule: Static Point - period of stability)
6. **BY** (Rule: The Amount - verb "climbed" + by + calculation of change [30-15=15])