

Old English prepositions and the cases they govern.

Students should bear in mind that in OE, as in other languages, the meanings of prepositions are highly idiomatic; only the most typical meanings are given here.

It should also be noted that uses with other cases than those listed here occur, though less often, and that there are some other, less common prepositions.

The chief sources for this table are Mitchell & Robinson 1992:116-7 and Clark Hall & Meritt 1960. The instrumental has been included in the dative, for the reasons given in the former work.

Preposition commonly used with all three oblique cases.

	<i>with acc.</i>	<i>with dat.</i>	<i>with gen.</i>
wip	‘near, up against’	‘against, in return for’	‘towards’

Prepositions commonly used with the accusative and dative.

	<i>with acc.</i>	<i>with dat.</i>
on	‘onto, into, up to’	‘on, in, during, at’
in	‘into’	‘in, during’
(b)innan	‘into’	‘inside, in’
under	‘under [motion]’	‘under [location], among, in the presence of’
ofer	‘over, above, throughout [motion]’	‘over, above, throughout [location]’
bufan	‘over [motion]’	‘above, on top of [location]’
	<i>with both cases</i>	
beforan	‘before, in front of, in the presence of’	
betweox	‘between, among, during’	
būtan	‘outside, without, except’	
for	‘in front of, before, for, on account of, instead of (etc.)’	
ongēan	‘towards, against, contrary to’	
mid	‘with [all senses except opposition]’; NOTE that the use of this preposition with the accusative is NON-WS ONLY	

Preposition commonly used with the dative and genitive.

	<i>with dat.</i>	<i>with gen.</i>
tō	‘to, at, for, as’	‘at [time]’

Prepositions commonly used with the accusative.

geond	‘throughout’
op	‘up to, as far as, until’
þurh	‘through, during, by means of’
ymbe	‘around, about, at, concerning’

Prepositions commonly used with the dative.

æfter	‘behind, after, in consequence of, for the purpose of’
æf	‘before [time]’
æt	‘at, by, in, on’
be	‘by, near, at, during, about, because of (etc.)’
ēac	‘in addition to’
fram	‘from, since, as a result of’; NOTE also that this is the usual preposition to express the agent with passive verbs, and that with verbs of communication it means ‘about’
of	‘from, out of, made of, belonging to’
tōgēanes	‘against, towards’