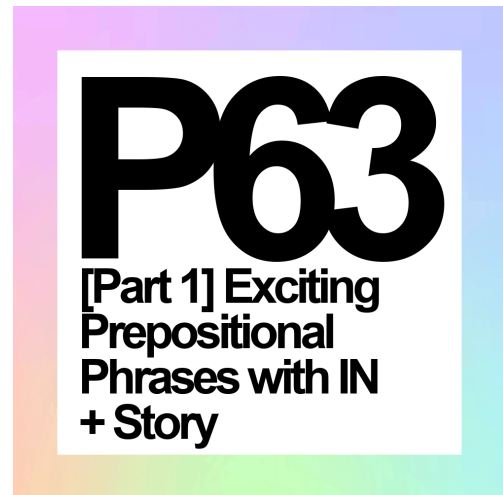


## P63 [Part 1] Exciting Prepositional Phrases with IN + Story

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Hello!

Welcome back to LEP Premium. **This is P63 part 1** and, it's a vocabulary episode with a story somewhere in the middle, plus the usual memory exercises, conversation questions and language teaching from me.



It's September when I am recording this. You might be listening to it at a different time, October probably.

As you know, I always aim to give you a new premium series every month, and I think I have more or less managed to do that since I started LEP Premium about 6 years ago.

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Sometimes it is difficult to keep up with that work rate. I've talked about this before. I always want to give you all the content you expect in LEP Premium but I also want to make sure I avoid burnout.

It might not have been obvious because I have (so far) managed to publish an episode per week since I got back from my summer break, but September has been quite a difficult month.

It seems to have taken me a long time to recover from the jet-lag of being away, even though it has been a few weeks now. I've been very tired and also under the weather. I had a migraine for at least a

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week, then a weird 2 week period with very bad mouth ulcers, which made it painful to speak, and also a week just suffering from a common cold.

But I've spent a lot of the month just trying to keep up with the pace of life with two children, and work and everything. It's not been too bad, but I have been low on energy and time too.

So, I haven't been able to work on premium stuff.

But look, here is a new premium episode. I actually don't know how many parts it will be. At least two I suppose!

I wanted to do more grammar this year, as I said in 899. But doing grammar in premium episodes requires a lot of preparation, research and creativity. I have something on relative clauses in the pipeline, but for the aforementioned reasons I won't be able to have that published before the end of the month.

So, instead of this being a grammar odyssey, P63 will deal with a much less taxing subject (from a teaching point of view anyway) which I think still has a lot of value for you as a learner of English, namely: Prepositional Phrases.

Prepositional phrases could come under the topic of grammar, because of course whenever you deal with more than one word at a time in English, grammar is involved. But really, to a large extent, this topic of prepositional phrases belongs to the subsection of English called vocabulary.

All that to say, here is a premium series dealing with vocabulary.

Prepositional phrases. More specifically, prepositional phrases with the word IN (although to be honest there will be quite a lot with other prepositional phrases too, which have already come up in this introduction.)

OK, so...

- What are prepositional phrases?
- What do they do, and how do they work?
- Why are they worth learning?
- Which ones are we going to deal with today, and how?

I'll give an answer to the last question first.

We're going to deal with prepositional phrases which begin with IN.

This is one of the most common prepositions, and as a result there are a lot of fixed phrases which start with this particular preposition. I could do other episodes in the future about phrases with on, with, off, etc.

Anyway, what about the other questions?

### **What are prepositional phrases?**

A **prepositional phrase** is a group of words that includes a preposition, its object (usually a noun or gerund) and any words that modify the object (like adjectives etc).

*I like to get up **in the early morning**.*

My favourite thing **in the world** is making podcasts.

## What do they do? How do they work?

Prepositional phrases usually function to modify either a verb or a noun, and depending on this, they can be classified as **adverbial phrases** or **adjectival phrases**.

- **Adjectival prepositional phrases** modify nouns, providing more detail or specificity. For example, in "*The cat **in the middle** is the cutest,*" the phrase "in the middle" describes which cat is being referred to.

Other example

*The man **with the scar on his face** is the murderer.* ("with the scar on his face" describes "the man")

- **Adverbial prepositional phrases** modify verbs, answering questions like "where?" or "how?". For example, in "*Look **behind you**,*" the phrase "behind you" describes where to look.

Other example

*I read your letter **with great interest**.* ("with great interest" tells us how he read the letter)

Adverbial prepositional phrases often come at the end of sentences, but other positions are possible.

Adverbial prepositional phrases are very common after "be", like these examples

Hold on, I am **in the middle of doing something**.

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I have no idea what you are talking about. I'm not **in the loop** at all.

The bank robbers were **in disguise**, so nobody recognised them.

Common prepositions that start these phrases include words like "in," "on," "with," "to," "for," and "by."

Modifiers can be added to the object of the preposition to provide more detail, as in "*in time*" and "*in the nick of time*."

*We arrived at the station **in time**.*

*We arrived at the station **in the nick of time**.*

So, basically, these are phrases that begin with "in" (in this case) and which can go just after a noun (to describe it) or after a verb clause (to describe the verb).

*The man **in question** was seen leaving the bank **in a hurry**.*

**In question** ← this prepositional phrase describes the noun "the man" and so it is adjectival. The man in question means *the man who we are talking about*.

**In a hurry** ← this prepositional phrase describes the verb "leaving the bank", and so it is adverbial.

### **Fixed multi-word expressions**

It's a good idea to learn these phrases as specific, fixed, descriptive expressions which always go together.

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In this lesson we'll be looking at about 20 prepositional phrases with "in".

But in fact, we've already had quite a lot of prepositional phrases in the episode already, including some with "in", but also with other prepositions too.

### What have we had so far?

We've already had at least 25 prepositional phrases in this episode, and 11 of them are phrases with "in".

Here they are.

1. You might be listening to it **at a different time**.
2. I started LEP Premium **about 6 years ago**.
3. I've been very tired and also **under the weather**.
4. I had a migraine **for at least a week**, then a weird 2 week period **with very bad mouth ulcers**
5. the pace of life **with two children**
6. But doing grammar **in premium episodes** requires a lot of preparation
7. I have something **on relative clauses** **in the pipeline**
8. I won't be able to have that published **before the end of the month**.
9. whenever you deal with more than one word **at a time** **in English**, grammar is involved
10. But really, **to a large extent**, this topic of prepositional phrases belongs to the subsection of English called vocabulary.

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11. I could do other episodes **in the future about phrases with on, with, off, etc.**
12. I like to get up **in the early morning.**
13. My favourite thing **in the world** is making podcasts.
14. The cat **in the middle** is the cutest,
15. The man **with the scar on his face** is the murderer.
16. Look **behind you**
17. I read your letter **with great interest.**
18. Hold on, I am **in the middle of doing something.**
19. I have no idea what you are talking about. I'm not **in the loop** at all.
20. The bank robbers were **in disguise**, so nobody recognised them.
21. We arrived at the station **in time.**
22. We arrived at the station **in the nick of time.**
23. The man **in question** was seen leaving the bank **in a hurry.**

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This list will come back later, perhaps as part of a memory exercise. Let's see how many of these little phrases you will be able to recall.

### Why are prepositional phrases worth learning?

I suppose this should be obvious, but just in case you're not convinced, here are some reasons why prepositional phrases are worth learning.

The main thing is that they help you express your ideas more clearly and naturally in English.

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Here are some key reasons.

### 1. Make Your Sentences More Precise

Prepositional phrases give extra details about time, place, reason, or manner. They also let you create longer, more complex and specific sentences.

### 2. Improve Sentence Variety

Using prepositional phrases allows you to create more complex, interesting sentences. Without them, your sentences might sound too simple or repetitive. For example:

- "He works hard."
- "He works hard **with great determination in every situation.**"

The second sentence is richer and more engaging.

### 3. Help in Understanding and Expressing Relationships

Prepositional phrases show how things or ideas relate to each other, like location, direction, or time. Mastering these helps you connect ideas smoothly, improving your fluency.

- "The park **behind the school** is beautiful."
- "I'll meet you **in two hours.**"

### 4. Make Your English Sound More Natural

Prepositional phrases are used absolutely all the time and are a key feature of natural sounding English. Knowing them helps you follow and participate in conversations easily. For example, instead of "I'll

*explain later,*" you could say, "*I'll explain **in more detail** later,*" making your speech a bit more natural.

### 5. Improve Reading and Listening Comprehension

Since prepositional phrases are so common in English, understanding them helps you grasp meaning more quickly in texts and conversations. You'll better understand descriptions, instructions, or stories where details are key.

By learning prepositional phrases, you'll not only improve your grammar, but also your ability to communicate complex ideas and understand English more deeply.

### Let's do a task

Actually, I was inspired to do this episode when I was flicking through an old book called "Build Your Vocabulary 3" by John Flower and Michael Berman.

It's an old exercise book which I used to use, years ago, when I was teaching in London. Now it lives on my bookshelf.

I took it down from the shelf the other day, and just flicked through it.

Page 71 is called "Expressions with IN". It gives some sentences with prepositional phrases with *in* but the phrases are missing. You have to put them back.

Let's do the exercise together.

### Expressions with 'in'

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Here are some expressions with 'in'.

Make sure you understand them before doing the exercise.

1. in agreement	9. in general
2. in charge of	10. in a hurry
3. in comparison with	11. in motion
4. in demand	12. in a position to
5. in the end	13. in private
6. in the lead	14. in silence
7. in fact	15. in tears
8. In favour of	16. in a whisper

Put the correct words from the above list into the following sentences. Use each expression once only.

1. Who is in \_\_\_\_\_ that group of students?

2. They're in \_\_\_\_\_ the idea but I'm against it.

3. She looks as if she's about 50 but in \_\_\_\_\_ she's over 60.

4. We saw her in \_\_\_\_\_ so we tried to **cheer her up**.

5. They listened to him in \_\_\_\_\_. Nobody said a word.

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6. This rain means umbrellas are very much in

\_\_\_\_\_.

7. Slow down! You're always in \_\_\_\_\_.

8. Do not get off while the bus is still in

\_\_\_\_\_.

9. At the moment Helen is in \_\_\_\_\_ and Ruth is second.

10. Can we talk in \_\_\_\_\_? Somebody might overhear us.

11. She could only speak in \_\_\_\_\_ because of her sore throat.

12. As we're all in \_\_\_\_\_, we can sign the contract.

13. My hair is quite short in \_\_\_\_\_ my sister's.

14. I'm afraid I'm not in \_\_\_\_\_ to help at present.

15. In \_\_\_\_\_ we understood what he was trying to tell us but it certainly took a long time!

16. I like music in \_\_\_\_\_ and jazz in particular.

**Once again you see how important word partnerships are!**

### 53 Expressions with 'in'

Here are some expressions with 'in'. Make sure you understand them before doing the exercise.

<b>in agreement</b>	<b>in charge of</b>	<b>in comparison with</b>	<b>in demand</b>
<b>in the end</b>	<b>in the lead</b>	<b>in fact</b>	<b>in favour of</b>
<b>in general</b>	<b>in a hurry</b>	<b>in motion</b>	<b>in a position to</b>
<b>in private</b>	<b>in silence</b>	<b>in tears</b>	<b>in a whisper</b>

Put the correct words from the above list into the following sentences. Use each expression once only.

- Who is in . . . . . that group of students?
- They're in . . . . . the idea but I'm against it.
- She looks as if she's about 50 but in . . . . . she's over 60.
- We saw her in . . . . . so we tried to cheer her up.
- They listened to him in . . . . . Nobody said a word.
- This rain means umbrellas are very much in . . . . .
- Slow down! You're always in . . . . .!
- Do not get off while the bus is still in . . . . .
- At the moment Helen is in . . . . . and Ruth is second.
- Can we talk in . . . . .? Somebody might overhear us.
- She could only speak in . . . . . because of her sore throat.
- As we're all in . . . . ., we can sign the contract.
- My hair is quite short in . . . . . my sister's.
- I'm afraid I'm not in . . . . . to help at present.
- In . . . . . we understood what he was trying to tell us but it certainly took a long time!
- I like music in . . . . . and jazz in particular.

Once again you see how important word partnerships are!

## A Story with Prepositional Phrases

The following story contains all the phrases we just looked at, plus some bonus ones.

First, just listen to the story and follow it. We'll deal with the vocabulary later.

## The Final Transmission

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The mission had been going smoothly, or so it seemed. Captain Elena Vos stood in the cockpit of the SS Horizon, in charge of the spaceship's course and crew.

It had been a long journey, and they were now deep in the unexplored regions of space. In comparison with past expeditions, this one had been peaceful. Almost too peaceful, Elena thought in private, as she monitored the ship's systems.

The crew, in general, was calm, though there had been whispers of something strange happening on board – voices in the dark, items out of place. Elena brushed them off. After all, she was the captain. She had to remain rational.

Today, however, there was tension in the air. They had intercepted an unusual transmission, faint but repeating. Elena listened to it in silence, the hair on her arms rising. The voice was too familiar.

"It's not possible," she muttered in a whisper, as her second-in-command, Lieutenant Foster, rushed into the room.

"Captain, are you hearing this?" he asked, in a hurry, his face pale. He had the same haunted look that Elena now realized she had.

"Yes," she replied, her voice firm despite the turmoil within her. "It sounds like... me."

They played the transmission again, and there it was – Elena's voice, urgently calling for help. In fact, it was coming from a location not far from their current position.

"We should investigate," Foster said. "It could be a trap, but if it's real... we can't leave someone stranded out here."

Elena nodded, her mind racing. She knew they weren't supposed to divert from their mission. But as the captain, she was in a position to make the call, and something about this felt deeply personal. Too personal to ignore.

"In the end, it's my decision," she said, standing straighter. "Set a course. We're going in."

The crew moved with efficiency, and the ship was soon in motion toward the source of the signal.

Time seemed to stretch, and Elena found herself lost in thought. Could it really be her voice? Was this some kind of cosmic anomaly, or worse—a trick?

As they neared the transmission's origin, a small, derelict ship came into view, floating lifeless in the void. The tension aboard the SS Horizon was palpable as they docked with it.

Foster and a small team prepared to board, while Elena stayed behind to monitor from the bridge. She couldn't shake the sense of dread settling in her bones.

Suddenly, there was a crackle on the comms. "Captain, we found something. You're not going to believe this."

Elena's breath hitched. "What is it?" she asked, her heart pounding in her chest.

"Another you," Foster replied, his voice trembling. "She's... unconscious, but alive. It's you, Captain, right down to the last detail."

The crew brought the doppelgänger on board. Elena stood in the med bay, staring at her own face—pale, weak, but unmistakably hers. In tears, she stepped closer, torn between disbelief and fear. The sight was impossible, unexplainable.

As the doctors worked on reviving the mysterious double, Elena's mind raced. If this other version of her had sent the distress signal, what had happened? Why had she been here?

Then, in an almost dreamlike state, her double opened her eyes. She sat up slowly, looking around in confusion. When her gaze met Elena's, she smiled—a chilling, knowing smile.

"Can everyone else please step out of the room," the double said, her voice eerily calm. "I'd like to speak with the captain in private."

The others hesitated. They were not completely in favour of this, but Elena nodded. Once they were alone, the double leaned in closer, her smile widening.

"You shouldn't have come," she whispered, her voice dripping with menace.

Before Elena could react, the double lunged at her, grabbing her by the throat with inhuman strength. Elena struggled, her mind reeling. This wasn't just

some clone. It was something far worse—something pretending to be her.

With a sharp twist, the double slammed Elena against the wall. "You were in the lead once, Captain," she hissed, her face transforming into something grotesque and alien. "But now... I'm taking over. I'm in charge."

In a heartbeat, Elena's world went black.

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Hours later, the crew was gathered in the command room. The captain had returned, her expression calm, but something about her was different. She was in control, giving orders as if nothing had happened.

Only Foster noticed the subtle change – the way she smiled just a little too wide, or how her voice, even when giving orders, held an unsettling edge. In contrast to the Captain he knew, this version of her was colder, more calculating.

In the end, Foster realized too late. The Captain was still in charge of the ship, but it was no longer the woman they had known. The real Elena Vos was gone.

The imposter had won.

This story was generated by ChatGPT, including a prompt to include certain prepositional phrases with "in".

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## Did you spot the phrases with “in”?

Let's go back through the story and see if you can notice them. I'll point them out as we go.

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### The prepositional phrases from the story

Here is a list of the expressions with "in" that were included in the story, along with the sentences where they appear for context. (Actually I think there were a few more than this)

1. **In charge of**

*"Captain Elena Vos stood in the cockpit of the SS Horizon, **in charge of** the spaceship's course and crew."*

2. **In comparison with**

*"**In comparison with** past expeditions, this one had been peaceful."*

3. **In private**

*"Almost too peaceful, Elena thought **in private**, as she monitored the ship's systems."*

4. **In general**

*"The crew, **in general**, was calm, though there had been whispers of something strange happening on board."*

5. **In silence**

*"Elena listened to it **in silence**, the hair on her arms rising."*

6. **In a whisper**

"*'It's not possible,' she muttered **in a whisper**, as her second-in-command, Lieutenant Foster, rushed into the room.*"

7. **In a hurry**

"*'Captain, are you hearing this?' he asked, **in a hurry**, his face pale.*"

8. **In fact**

"*'**In fact**, it was coming from a location not far from their current position.'*"

9. **In a position to**

"*'But as the captain, she was **in a position to** make the call...'*"

10. **In the end**

"*'**In the end**, it's my decision,' she said, standing straighter.*"

11. **In motion**

"*The crew moved with efficiency, and the ship was soon **in motion** toward the source of the signal.*"

12. **In demand - not actually used in the story!**

13. **In tears**

"*Elena stood in the med bay, staring at her own face—pale, weak, but unmistakably hers. **In tears**, she stepped closer.*"

**14. In favour of**

*"The others hesitated. They were not completely **in favour of this**, but Elena nodded."*

**15. In the lead**

*"'You were **in the lead** once, Captain,' she hissed, her face transforming into something grotesque and alien."*

**16. In a heartbeat**

*"**In a heartbeat**, Elena's world went black."*

---

Additional expressions with "in" included:

**17. In her chest**

*"Her heart pounding **in her chest**."*

**18. In control**

*"The captain had returned, her expression calm, but something about her was different. She was **in control**."*

**19. In contrast to**

*"**In contrast to** the Captain he knew, this version of her was colder, more calculating."*

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## **The Prepositional Phrases, Categorised**

Here's a categorisation of the phrases

### **Expressions Indicating Control or Leadership**

- **In charge of:** Indicates responsibility or leadership.
- **In control:** Indicates having authority or command over something.
- **In the lead:** Suggests being ahead in a competition or in a position of advantage.

### Expressions Indicating Time or Outcome

- **In the end:** Refers to the final result or outcome.
- **In a heartbeat:** Suggests something happening very quickly or instantly.

### Expressions Indicating Comparison or Contrast

- **In comparison with:** Used to compare two or more things.
- **In contrast to:** Used to show a clear difference between two or more things.

### Expressions Indicating State or Condition

- **In tears:** Describes someone crying or being emotionally upset.
- **In motion:** Describes something that is moving.
- **In silence:** Describes an action happening without sound.
- **In a hurry:** Refers to someone acting quickly or in haste.
- **In fact:** Used to emphasize the truth of a statement, often in contrast to previous assumptions.

### Expressions Indicating Support or Agreement

- **In favour of:** Means supporting or being in agreement with something.
- **In agreement:** Indicates concurrence or mutual understanding.

### Expressions Indicating Privacy or Secrecy

- **In private:** Refers to something done away from the public eye.
- **In a whisper:** Describes speaking softly or quietly, often to maintain secrecy.

### Expressions Indicating Position or Ability

- **In a position to:** Suggests having the ability, opportunity, or authority to do something.

### Other:

- **In general:** Refers to something considered as a whole, usually to make a general statement.
- 

## Memory Exercise 1

Can you remember the sentences from the introduction?

Let's see if you can complete them with the missing prepositions.

1. You might be listening to it \_\_\_\_\_ **a different time.**
2. I started LEP Premium \_\_\_\_\_ **6 years ago.**
3. I've been very tired and also \_\_\_\_\_ **the weather.**
4. I had a migraine \_\_\_\_\_ **at least a week**, then a weird 2 week period \_\_\_\_\_ **very bad mouth ulcers**
5. the pace of life \_\_\_\_\_ **two children**

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6. But doing grammar \_\_\_\_\_ **premium episodes** requires a lot of preparation
7. I have something \_\_\_\_\_ **relative clauses** \_\_\_\_\_ **the pipeline**
8. I won't be able to have that published \_\_\_\_\_ **the end of the month.**
9. whenever you deal with more than one word \_\_\_\_\_ **a time** \_\_\_\_\_ **English**, grammar is involved
10. But really, \_\_\_\_\_ **a large extent**, this topic of prepositional phrases belongs to the subsection of English called vocabulary.
11. I could do other episodes \_\_\_\_\_ **the future** \_\_\_\_\_ **phrases with on, with, off, etc.**
12. I like to get up \_\_\_\_\_ **the early morning.**
13. My favourite thing \_\_\_\_\_ **the world** is making podcasts.
14. The cat \_\_\_\_\_ **the middle** is the cutest,
15. The man \_\_\_\_\_ **the scar on his face** is the murderer.
16. Look \_\_\_\_\_ **you!**
17. I read your letter \_\_\_\_\_ **great interest.**
18. Hold on, I am \_\_\_\_\_ **the middle of doing something.**
19. I have no idea what you are talking about. I'm not \_\_\_\_\_ **the loop** at all.
20. The bank robbers were \_\_\_\_\_ **disguise**, so nobody recognised them.

21. We arrived at the station \_\_\_\_\_ **time**.
22. We arrived at the station \_\_\_\_\_ **the nick of time**.
23. The man \_\_\_\_\_ **question** was seen leaving the bank  
\_\_\_\_\_ **a hurry**.

## **Answers for Memory Exercise 1**

1. You might be listening to it **at a different time**.
2. I started LEP Premium **about 6 years ago**.
3. I've been very tired and also **under the weather**.
4. I had a migraine **for at least a week**, then a weird 2 week period **with very bad mouth ulcers**
5. the pace of life **with two children**
6. But doing grammar **in premium episodes** requires a lot of preparation
7. I have something **on relative clauses** **in the pipeline**
8. I won't be able to have that published **before the end of the month**.
9. whenever you deal with more than one word **at a time** **in English**, grammar is involved
10. But really, **to a large extent**, this topic of prepositional phrases belongs to the subsection of English called vocabulary.
11. I could do other episodes **in the future** **about phrases with on, with, off, etc**.
12. I like to get up **in the early morning**.
13. My favourite thing **in the world** is making podcasts.
14. The cat **in the middle** is the cutest,
15. The man **with the scar on his face** is the murderer.
16. Look **behind you**
17. I read your letter **with great interest**.

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18. Hold on, I am **in the middle of doing something**.
19. I have no idea what you are talking about. I'm not **in the loop** at all.
20. The bank robbers were **in disguise**, so nobody recognised them.
21. We arrived at the station **in time**.
22. We arrived at the station **in the nick of time**.
23. The man **in question** was seen leaving the bank **in a hurry**.

## Questions for speaking practice

Use these questions for speaking practice, using the prepositional phrases from the last exercise.

1. **At a different time:** What is one thing you would do differently if you could go back and do it at a different time in your life?
2. **About 6 years ago:** Can you describe an important event or change in your life that happened about 6 years ago?
3. **Under the weather:** How do you usually feel when you're under the weather? What do you do to feel better?
4. **With two children:** What challenges do you think people face when raising two children compared to just one? What is difficult to do with two children?
5. **In premium episodes:** What do you like in premium episodes, and why?

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6. **On relative clauses:** Would you be interested in an episode on relative clauses?
7. **In the pipeline:** What projects or plans do you currently have in the pipeline for your future?
8. **Before the end of the month:** What is one goal you want to accomplish before the end of the month?
9. **At a time:** Do you prefer to multitask or focus on one task at a time? Why?
10. **In English:** What is your favorite book or movie that is originally in English? What do you like about it?
11. **To a large extent:** How do you think technology has changed the way we communicate to a large extent?
12. **Of English:** What do you find most challenging about the grammar of English?
13. **In the early morning:** What do you enjoy doing in the early morning before starting your day?
14. **In the world:** If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go and why?
15. **In the middle:** Have you ever been in the middle of a difficult conversation? How did you handle it?
16. **With a scar:** Do you have a memorable story or experience related to a scar you have, or have you seen someone else with an interesting scar?
17. **With great interest:** What topic do you study or read about with great interest? Why does it fascinate you?

18. **In the middle of doing something:** Have you ever been interrupted in the middle of doing something important? How did you react?
  19. **In the loop:** How do you make sure you stay in the loop with important information at work or school?
  20. **In disguise:** If you could go anywhere in disguise, where would you go and what would your disguise be?
  21. **At the station:** What is a memorable experience you've had while waiting at the station for a train or bus?
  22. **In time:** Have you ever managed to finish a project just in time? How did it feel?
  23. **In the nick of time:** Can you recall a moment when you arrived somewhere in the nick of time? What happened?
  24. **In a hurry:** What do you usually do when you're in a hurry? Do you have any strategies to manage your time?
- 

## **Memory Exercise 2**

Can you complete the science fiction story with the right prepositional phrases?

### **The Final Transmission**

The mission had been going smoothly, or so it seemed. Captain Elena Vos stood in the c\_\_\_\_\_ of the SS Horizon, in c\_\_\_\_\_ of the spaceship's course and crew. It had been a long journey, and they were now deep in the un\_\_\_\_\_ regions of space.

## P63 [Part 1] Exciting Prepositional Phrases with IN + Story

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In c\_\_\_\_\_ with past expeditions, this one had been peaceful. Almost too peaceful, Elena thought in p\_\_\_\_\_, as she monitored the ship's systems.

The crew, in g\_\_\_\_\_, was calm, though there had been whispers of something strange happening on board – voices in the d\_\_\_\_\_, items out of place. Elena brushed them off. After all, she was the captain. She had to remain rational.

Today, however, there was tension in the a\_\_\_\_\_. They had intercepted an unusual transmission, faint but repeating. Elena listened to it in s\_\_\_\_\_, the hair on her arms rising. The voice was too familiar.

"It's not possible," she muttered in a w\_\_\_\_\_, as her second-in-command, Lieutenant Foster, rushed into the room.

"Captain, are you hearing this?" he asked, in a h\_\_\_\_\_, his face pale. He had the same haunted look that Elena now realized she had.

"Yes," she replied, her voice firm despite the turmoil within her. "It sounds like... me."

They played the transmission again, and there it was – Elena's voice, urgently calling for help. In f\_\_\_\_\_, it was coming from a location not far from their current position.

"We should investigate," Foster said. "It could be a trap, but if it's real... we can't leave someone stranded out here."

Elena nodded, her mind racing. She knew they weren't supposed to divert from their mission. But as the captain, she was in a p\_\_\_\_\_ to make the call, and something about this felt deeply personal. Too personal to ignore.

"In the e\_\_\_\_\_, it's my decision," she said, standing straighter. "Set a course. We're going in."

The crew moved with efficiency, and the ship was soon in m\_\_\_\_\_ toward the source of the signal. Time seemed to stretch, and Elena found herself lost in t\_\_\_\_\_. Could it really be her voice? Was this some kind of cosmic anomaly, or worse—a trick?

As they neared the transmission's origin, a small, derelict ship came into view, floating lifeless in the v\_\_\_\_\_. The tension aboard the SS Horizon was palpable as they docked with it. Foster and a small team prepared to board, while Elena stayed behind to monitor from the bridge. She couldn't shake the sense of dread settling in her b\_\_\_\_\_.

Suddenly, there was a crackle on the comms. "Captain, we found something. You're not going to believe this."

Elena's breath hitched. "What is it?" she asked, her heart pounding in her chest.

"Another you," Foster replied, his voice trembling. "She's... unconscious, but alive. It's you, Captain, right down to the last detail."

The crew brought the doppelgänger on board. Elena stood in the med bay, staring at her own face—pale, weak, but unmistakably hers. In t\_\_\_\_\_, she

stepped closer, torn between disbelief and fear. The sight was impossible, unexplainable.

As the doctors worked on reviving the mysterious double, Elena's mind raced. If this other version of her had sent the distress signal, what had happened? Why had she been here?

Then, in an almost dreamlike s\_\_\_\_\_, her double opened her eyes. She sat up slowly, looking around in c\_\_\_\_\_. When her gaze met Elena's, she smiled—a chilling, knowing smile.

"Can everyone else please step out of the room," the double said, her voice eerily calm. "I'd like to speak with the captain in p\_\_\_\_\_."

The others hesitated. They were not completely in f\_\_\_\_\_ of this, but Elena nodded. Once they were alone, the double leaned in closer, her smile widening.

"You shouldn't have come," she whispered, her voice dripping with menace.

Before Elena could react, the double lunged at her, grabbing her by the throat with inhuman strength. Elena struggled, her mind reeling. This wasn't just some clone. It was something far worse – something pretending to be her.

With a sharp twist, the double slammed Elena against the wall. "You were in the l\_\_\_\_\_ once, Captain," she hissed, her face transforming into something grotesque and alien. "But now... I'm taking over. I'm in c\_\_\_\_\_."

In a h\_\_\_\_\_, Elena's world went black.

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Hours later, the crew was gathered in the command room. The captain had returned, her expression calm, but something about her was different. She was in c\_\_\_\_\_, giving orders as if nothing had happened.

Only Foster noticed the subtle change – the way she smiled just a little too wide, or how her voice, even when giving orders, held an unsettling edge. In c\_\_\_\_\_ to the Captain he knew, this version of her was colder, more calculating.

In the e\_\_\_\_\_, Foster realized too late. The Captain was still in c\_\_\_\_\_ of the ship, but it was no longer the woman they had known. The real Elena Vos was gone.

The imposter had won.

**Read the original text (above) to check your answers.**

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## **Speaking - More Discussion Questions**

**Use these questions to practise using the prepositional phrases from the story / workbook exercise.**

**Expressions Indicating Control or Leadership**

**1. In charge of**

What personal qualities do you think are important for someone who is in charge of a team or project?

**2. In control**

Can you describe a situation where you felt completely in control of a challenging task? How did you maintain that control?

**3. In the lead**

Have you ever been in the lead during a competition or race?

**Expressions Indicating Time or Outcome**

**4. In the end**

What's a decision you made that led to a surprising outcome in the end?

**5. In a heartbeat**

Can you share an experience where you would do something in a heartbeat if given the chance?

**Expressions Indicating Comparison or Contrast**

**6. In comparison with**

How do you think your hometown has changed in comparison with other cities you have visited?

**7. In contrast to**

What are some activities you enjoy in contrast to what your friends prefer doing?

**Expressions Indicating State or Condition**

**8. In tears**

Have you ever found yourself in tears during a movie or a book? What was it about?

**9. In motion**

Do you prefer activities that are in motion, like running or dancing, or do you enjoy more stationary hobbies? Why?

**10. In silence**

What do you think is the importance of being in silence sometimes, and how does it affect your mood?  
How much time do you spend sitting in silence? Would you like to do it more?

**11. In a hurry**

How do you handle situations when you're in a hurry? Do you have any tips for staying organized?

**Expressions Indicating Support or Agreement**

**12. In favour of**

Are you in favour of any recent social changes or movements? What do you think are the potential impacts?

**13. In agreement**

When was the last time you found yourself in agreement with a controversial opinion? What was it?

**Expressions Indicating Privacy or Secrecy**

**15. In private**

What's an experience you prefer to keep in private? Why do you think it's important to maintain privacy in certain situations?

**16. In a whisper**

Have you ever had to communicate something important in a whisper? What was the context?

**Expressions Indicating Position or Ability**

**17. In a position to**

What skills do you think are necessary to be in a position to lead a successful team?

**Other**

**18. In general**

What do you believe are the most important qualities people should have, in general, to lead a fulfilling life?

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**That's it! I sincerely hope this has been both useful and entertaining!**

**In the next part: Pronunciation Practice!**