Prepositions (2)

1. Commonly confused phrases.

at the beginning (of) / at the end (of) – literally at the beginning/end
At the end of a book there is often an index.

in the beginning / at first – in the early stages (it implies that a change occurred later)
In the beginning/At first we used typewriters. Later we had computers.

in the end / at last – eventually/after some time
At first I didn’t like my job very much, but in the end I found it really rewarding.

2. At and In in phrases referring to places

You are at home, at work, at the office, at school, at the university, at an address, at a certain point (at the bridge, at the bus stop, at the crossroads).
You are in a country, a town, a village, a street, a room, a forest, a desert.

In means ‘inside’ and we use it to refer to enclosed places, places with boundaries. At can either mean ‘inside’, or ‘in the vicinity of’ a place, just outside a place. If you are in a building, you are inside, but if you are at a building, you are just outside it.

3. Gerunds (-ing) after prepositions

Verbs immediately following prepositions must be in the gerund form.
He left without saying a word.
I apologize for not calling you sooner.
He insisted on changing his working hours.
I look forward to hearing from you.
He objects to his boss telling him what to do.

4. Common prepositional phrases

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<th>according to</th>
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<td>apart from</td>
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