

## Lezione 3A.2 Preposizioni semplici e articolate (Simple prepositions and Prepositional contractions)

You have already learned some prepositions in Italian such as **di** to show possession (*è il cane di Max*) and **alle** (prepositional contraction) when referring to time (*vado a scuola alle otto di mattina*). Prepositions show the relationship between two words in a sentence.

### Simple prepositions

<b>a</b>	<i>to, at, in</i>	<b>in</b>	<i>in, to, at</i>
<b>con</b>	<i>with</i>	<b>per</b>	<i>for, through, in order to</i>
<b>da</b>	<i>from, since, by, at</i>	<b>fra/tra</b>	<i>among, between, in</i>
<b>di (d')</b>	<i>of, from</i>	<b>su</b>	<i>on, in</i>

**Nico cammina per la città.**

*Nico walks through the city.*

**Il regalo è per Marco.**

*The gift is for Marco.*

**Giada sta tra Mia e Lisa.**

*Giada is between Mia and Lisa.*

**Arriva fra due mesi.**

*She will arrive in two months.*

\*Prepositional contractions are formed when certain prepositions contract with a definite article (il, lo, l', la, i, gli, le).

**a+il → al**  
to the → to the

**in+la→nella**  
in the → in the

### Preposizioni articolate

	<b>a</b>	<b>da</b>	<b>di</b>	<b>in</b>	<b>su</b>
<b>il</b>	<b>al</b>	<b>dal</b>	<b>del</b>	<b>nel</b>	<b>sul</b>
<b>lo</b>	<b>allo</b>	<b>dallo</b>	<b>dello</b>	<b>nello</b>	<b>sullo</b>
<b>l'</b>	<b>all'</b>	<b>dall'</b>	<b>dell'</b>	<b>nell'</b>	<b>sull'</b>
<b>la</b>	<b>alla</b>	<b>dalla</b>	<b>della</b>	<b>nella</b>	<b>sulla</b>
<b>i</b>	<b>ai</b>	<b>dai</b>	<b>dei</b>	<b>nei</b>	<b>sui</b>
<b>gli</b>	<b>agli</b>	<b>dagli</b>	<b>degli</b>	<b>negli</b>	<b>sugli</b>
<b>le</b>	<b>alle</b>	<b>dalle</b>	<b>delle</b>	<b>nelle</b>	<b>sulle</b>

\*As you have seen, **di** is used to express possession. **Di** can also be used to describe a person or item, while **da** reflects an item's purpose.

<b>Il professore <u>di</u> spagnolo</b>	<i>the Spanish professor</i>
<b>la partita <u>di</u> calcio</b>	<i>the soccer game</i>
<b>il costume <u>da</u> bagno</b>	<i>the bathing suit (suit for bathing)</i>
<b>la racchetta <u>da</u> tennis</b>	<i>tennis racket (racket for tennis)</i>

\***Di** and **da** can both describe origin or provenance, but their use depends on the main verb in the sentence.

Sono **di** Roma.      Vengo **da** Firenze.      Arrivano **da** Milano.  
*I am from Rome.      I come from Florence.      They arrive from Milano.*

\*Use **da** + (noun) to mean *at (a person's) place or home*.

Andiamo **dai** miei genitori.      Studio **da** Cinzia oggi.  
*We're going to my parent's house.      I'm studying at Cinzia's today.*

\* As previously learned, both **a** and **in** can express destination or location. Use the prepositional contraction when the noun is modified.

**nella** bella Toscana      **alla** Roma di Pasolini      **negli** Stati Uniti  
*in beautiful Tuscany      in Pasolini's Rome      in the United States*

\*In many cases, the use of **a** or **in** is idiomatic. Note that many expressions with **a** or **in** do not use the definite article.

<b>a casa</b> <i>at home</i>	<b>in autobus</b> <i>by bus</i>
<b>al cinema</b> <i>at/to the movies</i>	<b>in bicicletta</b> <i>by bicycle</i>
<b>al mare</b> <i>at/to the beach/sea</i>	<b>in macchina</b> <i>by car</i>
<b>a mezzanotte</b> <i>at midnight</i>	<b>in treno</b> <i>by train</i>
<b>a piedi</b> <i>on foot</i>	<b>in banca</b> <i>at/to the bank</i>
<b>a scuola</b> <i>at/to school</i>	<b>in biblioteca</b> <i>at/to the library</i>
<b>a tavola</b> <i>at the table</i>	<b>in centro</b> <i>in town</i>
<b>a letto</b> <i>in/to bed</i>	<b>in montagna</b> <i>in/to the mountains</i>
<b>a teatro</b> <i>at/to the theater</i>	<b>in vacanza</b> <i>on vacation</i>

\* **Su** has idiomatic uses as shown in the following examples.

**Sul** computer      **su** internet      **sul** giornale  
**On** the computer      online/**on** the Internet      **in** the newspaper

\*In contrast, use **a** for the radio, and **a** or **in** for television.

C'è una bella canzone **alla** radio.      Il film è **alla** (**in**) televisione.

**Now do Provalo, p. 111, and exercises 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 pp. 112-113.**