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## Grammar Reference

### The main postpositions

The **main postpositions** in American English are:

- **Away**    **estrangement:** to go **away**  
              **disappearance:** to sweep **away**  
              **an energetic action:** to cry **away**
- **Back**    **backward movement:** to stand **back**  
              **return to the point of departure:** to bring **back**  
              **reply, revenge:** to answer **back**, to shout **back**  
              **reserved attitude:** to hold **back**
- **Down**    **downward movement:** to go **down**  
              **writing:** to write **down**  
              **decrease:** to turn **down**
- **In**        **inward movement:** to get **in**  
              **inside (without movement):** to be **in**  
              **visit:** to drop **in**
- **Off**       **averting:** to put **off**  
              **departure:** to go **off**, to take **off**  
              **interruption:** to turn **off**  
              **complete achievement:** to finish **off**
- **On**       **contact:** to try **on**  
              **movement:** come **on**  
              **continuation:** to go **on**  
              **start:** to turn on, to switch **on**
- **Out**      **outward movement:** to move **out**  
              **outside (without movement):** to eat **out**  
              **extension:** to stretch **out**  
              **distribution:** to give **out**  
              **clarification, externalization:** to find **out**  
              **to yell out**  
              **exhaustion:** to run **out of**  
              **suddenness:** to break **out**

- **Over** passage (from one person to another, from one country to another): to pass **over**  
 movement to return or unbalance  
 to turn **over**  
 repetition: to say **over**  
 action done with care: to think **over**
- **Up** upward movement: to climb **up**  
 increased volume: to speak **up**  
 total achievement: to eat **up**  
 continuation of a path: to go further **up**

### 'Little' - 'A little' - 'Much'

The indefinite adjectives (or pronouns) **little**, **a little** and **much** express a **notion of quantity** and are used before an **uncountable singular noun**.

- **little** is used to **stress a very small quantity**.

*Example:*

There is very **little** juice left.

- **a little** is used when describing a **small quantity**, but contrary to **little**, it is only a simple **statement**.

*Example:*

There is **a little** juice in the fridge, if you want.

- **much** is used when describing a **large quantity**.

*Example:*

We have **much** work to do today.  
There isn't **much** coffee left.

Note.

- Often, in the **affirmative form**, **much** is replaced by **a lot of** or **plenty of**.  
*Example:* There's **a lot of** tea in China.
- When the noun is **understood**, the indefinite adjectives become indefinite pronouns.  
*Example:* There is **little** (juice) left.

### Invariable cardinal numbers

- When **preceded** by **specific quantities** or by '**several**' or '**a few**,' '**dozen**,' '**hundred**,' '**thousand**,' and '**million**' are **invariable**.

*Example:* I bought **two dozen** eggs.  
His purchase volume is around **\$2 million**.  
**Several hundred** people came.

- The same **numbers** become **plural** when **followed** by '**of**.'

*Example:* The system allows **millions of** people to send each other messages.