

# SUR, SOUS, AU-DESSUS, EN-DESSOUS, PAR- DESSUS, PAR-DESSOUS



French prepositions play a crucial role in describing spatial relationships. In this lesson, we will explore six commonly used prepositions: SUR, SOUS, AU-DESSUS DE, EN-DESSOUS DE, PAR-DESSUS, and PAR-DESSOUS.

These prepositions help us convey precise details about position, movement, and orientation.

## 1. SUR (On, upon, over)

**Meaning:** Indicates that something is positioned on or upon another object. It can also imply being over an area or surface.

**Usage:** Always followed by a noun or pronoun.

### **Additional Notes:**

**SUR** is often used to describe physical placement or attachment to a surface. For example, "sur la table" means directly on the table.

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It can also be used metaphorically: "Il travaille sur un projet" (He is working on a project).

- **Example:**

- French: La pomme est **sur la table**.
- English: The apple is on the table.

## 2. DESSUS (Above, over)

**Meaning:** Indicates that something is above or on top but without repeating the noun. It refers back to a previously mentioned object.

**Usage:** Not followed by a noun or pronoun; used when the object is already understood from context.

### Additional Notes:

Use **dessus** when you want to avoid redundancy. For instance, "La pomme est dessus" avoids repeating "sur la table."

- **Example:**

- French: La pomme est **dessus**.
- English: The apple is on (it).

## 3. AU-DESSUS DE (Above, over)

**Meaning:** Indicates that something is higher than or above another object. Unlike **dessus**, this preposition introduces a new object.

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**Usage:** Followed by a noun or pronoun.

**Additional Notes:**

Often used to describe relative positioning, such as one object being placed higher than another.

- **Example:**

- French: Le grille-pain est **au-dessus du micro-ondes**.
- English: The toaster is above the microwave.

#### **4. PAR-DESSUS (Across, over)**

**Meaning:** Indicates movement or action across or over something. It emphasizes the motion involved.

**Usage:** Can stand alone or be followed by a definite article and noun.

**Additional Notes:**

Use **par-dessus** to describe dynamic actions, such as jumping or throwing.

Adding an article and noun specifies what is being crossed or moved over.

**Without a noun:**

French: Il a sauté **par-dessus**.

English: He jumped over (it).

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## **With a noun:**

French: Il a sauté **par-dessus la barrière**.

English: He jumped over the fence.

## **5. SOUS (Under, beneath)**

**Meaning:** Indicates that something is positioned below or underneath another object.

**Usage:** Always followed by a noun or pronoun.

### **Additional Notes:**

**Sous** is used for direct, physical relationships between objects where one is beneath the other.

- **Example:**

- French: Le chien est **sous la table**.
- English: The dog is under the table.

## **6. DESSOUS (Below, underneath)**

**Meaning:** Indicates something is under or below, but without repeating the noun. It refers back to a previously mentioned object.

**Usage:** Not followed by a noun or pronoun; used when the object is already understood from context.

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## Additional Notes:

Use **dessous** to avoid redundancy. For instance, "Le chien est dessous" avoids repeating "sous la table."

- **Example:**
  - French: Le chien est **dessous**.
  - English: The dog is under (it).

## 7. EN-DESSOUS DE (Below, underneath)

**Meaning:** Indicates that something is positioned lower than or beneath another object. Similar to **sous**, but often used for relative positioning.

**Usage:** Followed by a noun or pronoun.

## Additional Notes:

Use **en-dessous de** when emphasizing relative placement, such as layers or levels.

- **Example:**
  - French: Le micro-ondes est **en-dessous du grille-pain**.
  - English: The microwave is under the toaster.

## 8. PAR-DESSOUS (Underneath, from)

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**Meaning:** Indicates movement or action coming from beneath something. It emphasizes the motion involved.

**Usage:** Can stand alone or be followed by a definite article and noun.

**Without a noun:**

French: L'eau est entrée **par-dessous**.

English: The water entered from underneath.

**With a noun:**

French: L'eau est entrée **par-dessous la porte**.

English: The water came in under the door.

**Additional Notes:**

**Par-dessous** highlights the motion or direction involved in the action.

<b>SUR</b>  <b>On, upon, over</b>	FOLLOWED BY NOUN OR PRONOUN	LA POMME EST SUR LA TABLE.  The apple is on the table.
<b>DESSUS</b>  <b>Above, over</b>	NOT FOLLOWED BY NOUN OR PRONOUN	LA POMME EST DESSUS.  The apple is on

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		(it).
<b>AU-DESSUS DE</b>  <b>Above, over</b>	FOLLOWED BY NOUN OR PRONOUN	LE GRILLE-PAIN EST AU-DESSUS DU MICRO-ONDES.  The toaster is above the microwave.
<b>PAR-DESSUS</b>  <b>Across, over</b>	ACTION IS INVOLVED	IL A SAUTÉ PAR-DESSUS.  He jumped over (it).
<b>PAR-DESSUS LE / LA / LES</b>  <b>Across (the), over (the)</b>	ACTION IS INVOLVED + DEFINITE ARTICLE + NOUN	IL A SAUTÉ PAR-DESSUS LA BARRIÈRE.  He jumped over the fence.
<b>SOUS</b>  <b>Under, beneath</b>	FOLLOWED BY NOUN OR PRONOUN	LE CHIEN EST SOUS LA TABLE.  The dog is under the table.

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<p><b>DESSOUS</b></p> <p><b>Below, underneath</b></p>	<p>NOT FOLLOWED BY NOUN OR PRONOUN</p>	<p>LE CHIEN EST DESSOUS.</p> <p>The dog is under (it).</p>
<p><b>EN-DESSOUS DE</b></p> <p><b>Below, underneath</b></p>	<p>FOLLOWED BY NOUN OR PRONOUN</p>	<p>LE MICRO-ONDES EST EN-DESSOUS DU GRILLE-PAIN.</p> <p>The microwave is under the toaster.</p>
<p><b>PAR-DESSOUS</b></p> <p><b>Underneath, from</b></p>	<p>ACTION IS INVOLVED</p>	<p>L'EAU EST ENTRÉE PAR-DESSOUS.</p> <p>The water entered from underneath.</p>
<p><b>PAR-DESSOUS LE / LA / LES</b></p> <p><b>Underneath (the), from (the)</b></p>	<p>ACTION IS INVOLVED + DEFINITE ARTICLE + NOUN</p>	<p>L'EAU EST ENTRÉE PAR-DESSOUS LA PORTE.</p> <p>The water came in under the door.</p>

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