

You can sit before the desk (or in front of the desk). The professor can sit on the desk (when he's being informal) or behind the desk, and then his feet are under the desk or beneath the desk. He can stand beside the desk (meaning next to the desk), before the desk, between the desk and you, or even on the desk (if he's really strange). If he's clumsy, he can bump into the desk or try to walk through the desk (and stuff would fall off the desk). Passing his hands over the desk or resting his elbows upon the desk, he often looks across the desk and speaks of the desk or concerning the desk as if there were nothing else like the desk. Because he thinks of nothing except the desk, sometimes you wonder about the desk, what's in the desk, what he paid for the desk, and if he could live without the desk. You can walk toward the desk, to the desk, around the desk, by the desk, and even past the desk while he sits at the desk or leans against the desk. All of this happens, of course, in time: during the class, before the class, until the class, throughout the class, after the class, etc. And the professor can sit there in a bad mood.

You can sit **before** the desk (or **in front of** the desk). The professor can sit **on** the desk (when he's being informal) or **behind** the desk, and then his feet are **under** the desk or **beneath** the desk. He can stand **beside** the desk (meaning **next to** the desk), **before** the desk, **between** the desk and you, or even **on** the desk (if he's really strange). If he's clumsy, he can bump **into** the desk or try to walk **through** the desk (and stuff would fall **off** the desk). Passing his hands **over** the desk or resting his elbows **upon** the desk, he often looks **across** the desk and speaks **of** the desk or **concerning** the desk as if there were nothing else **like** the desk. Because he thinks of nothing **except** the desk, sometimes you wonder **about** the desk, what's **in** the desk, what he paid **for** the desk, and if he could live **without** the desk. You can walk **toward** the desk, **to** the desk, **around** the desk, **by** the desk, and even **past** the desk while he sits **at** the desk or leans **against** the desk.

All of this happens, of course, in time: **during** the class, **before** the class, **until** the class, **throughout** the class, **after** the class, etc. And the professor can sit there **in a bad mood** [another adverbial construction].