

Prepositions

A **preposition** is a word that shows the relationship of a noun or a pronoun to some other word in a sentence.

E.g. The cat food is **inside** the cupboard.

We'll go to the movie **after** lunch.

These are some commonly used prepositions:

aboard	as	but (except)	in	out	toward
about	at	by	inside	outside	under
above	before	concerning	into	over	underneath
across	behind	despite	like	past	until
after	below	down	near	pending	unto
against	beneath	during	of	regarding	up
along	beside	except	off	since	upon
amid	besides	excepting	on	through	with
among	between	for	onto	throughout	within
around	beyond	from	opposite	to	out

A **compound preposition** is a preposition made up of more than one word.

according to	apart from	because of	in front of	next to	out of
ahead of	aside from	by means of	in spite of	on account of	owing to
along with	as to	in addition to	instead of	on top of	

Prepositions begin phrases that generally end with a noun or a pronoun called the **object of the preposition**.

The horses jumped **over** the fence.

They showered the king **with** gifts.

Prepositional Phrases

A **prepositional phrase** begins with a preposition and usually ends with a noun or a pronoun, called the **object of the preposition**. (For a list of prepositions, see Unit 1, Lesson 10, page 69.) The object may be compound or may have modifiers.

Our stockpile **of snowballs** was depleted quickly.

This pudding is made **with milk and bread**. (compound object)

I brought back film footage **of the horrible storm**. (object with modifier)

A prepositional phrase acts as an **adjective** when it modifies a noun or a pronoun. A prepositional phrase acts as an **adverb** when it modifies a verb, an adjective, or an adverb.

David tried every pair of skis **in the lodge**. (adjective phrase modifying the noun *skis*)
You can come **to the party**. (adverb phrase modifying the verb phrase *can come*)

Exercise 1 Circle each prepositional phrase in the following sentences.

We met in the lobby after school.

1. My sister took her books off the table at dinnertime.
2. At the party, we met students who did not go to our school.
3. Which of the movies is your favorite?
4. Tim sat motionless for a long time.
5. We ran toward the water when we reached the beach.
6. Sheila always gets nervous before a performance.
7. Inside the auditorium people talked loudly until the end of the show.
8. I ran around the table and hid beneath the chair.
9. Sue promised me her recipe for stew.
10. Cheers filled the stadium throughout the football game.
11. Would you rather live in Paris or in Africa?
12. By two o'clock on the day of the bake sale, all of the cookies had been sold.
13. Derek looked behind the garage and saw his roller skates.
14. The four of us swam laps in the pool after school.
15. We laughed at the joke, though it wasn't very funny.
16. Marty proved she could compete against any member of the other team.
17. Did you travel by car or by train?
18. The students were encouraged in their efforts.
19. The parking garage below the mall is always full.
20. He studies hard, and his grades are always above the average.