

Lesson 1

What Is a Preposition?

Teaching

A preposition is a word used to show a relationship between a noun or pronoun and some other word in the sentence.

The dog is **under** the bed. (*under* shows the relationship between *dog* and *bed*)

Common Prepositions				
about	at	despite	like	to
above	before	down	near	toward
across	behind	during	of	under
after	below	except	off	until
against	beneath	for	on	up
along	beside	from	out	with
among	between	in	over	within
around	beyond	inside	past	without
as	by	into	through	

A **prepositional phrase** consists of a preposition, its object, and any modifiers of the object. The **object of the preposition** is the noun or pronoun following the preposition.

People communicate in many ways. (The preposition is *in*, the object of the preposition is *ways*, and the prepositional phrase is *in many ways*.)

Sometimes the same word can be used as a preposition or as an adverb. If there is no object, the word is an adverb.

Adverb Come along.
Preposition The messages travel along the telephone wire.

A. Finding Prepositions and Their Objects

Underline the prepositions in each sentence. Underline the objects of the prepositions twice.

1. People enjoy talking with one another.
2. They share news of their daily lives.
3. News about international events are broadcast on television.
4. Many people find current news on the Internet.
5. Communication methods have changed over the centuries.
6. Sending messages around the globe has become commonplace.

B. Recognizing Prepositions and Adverbs

Decide whether the boldfaced word is a preposition or an adverb. Write **P** on the line if it is a preposition. Write **A** if it is an adverb.

1. I have spoken to you **before**, haven't I? _____
2. **Before** the speech, the audience was restless. _____
3. Get you words **down** on paper before you forget them. _____
4. The train continued **down** the track. _____

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More Practice

A. Identifying Prepositions and Their Objects

Underline each preposition once. Circle the object of the preposition. Sentences may have more than one prepositional phrase.

1. Some of the construction crew built a scaffold near the tower.
2. The library will hold the book until tomorrow.
3. The prompter sat behind the scenery with a small flashlight.
4. Chirps of the newly hatched chicks could be heard in the corridor.
5. A plane made an emergency landing in a cornfield.
6. The elephants lumbered past us toward the water hole.
7. The puppy came into our tent and slept at the foot of my sleeping bag.
8. A skywriter flew over the field during the game.
9. The city was without power for several hours.
10. The cross-country team ran down the avenue and through the park.

B. Recognizing Prepositions and Adverbs

Decide whether the boldfaced word is an adverb or a preposition. Write *Adverb* or *Preposition* on the line.

1. The Pony Express got the mail **through**. _____
2. The company moved some employees **around**. _____
3. The ferry passed **under** the bridge. _____
4. We looked **across** at the crowd on the opposite shore. _____
5. The circus parade just went **past**. _____
6. The investigators found clues **inside** the closet. _____
7. The swimmer held his breath when he went **under**. _____
8. Ellen saw the bus coming and raced **out** the door. _____
9. The parade had never passed this way **before**. _____
10. The horses trotted **around** the ring. _____
11. A professional doesn't leave her tools lying **around**. _____
12. The boomerang flew **across** the back yard. _____

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Application

A. Writing with Prepositional Phrases

Add one or more prepositional phrases to each simple sentence. Write your new sentence on the line.

1. The telephone rang.

2. The radio announcer reported.

3. A television special report aired.

4. The telegram arrived.

5. Flora wrote a letter.

B. Writing with Prepositional Phrases

Use three of these prepositional phrases in an original story. Write your story on the lines below.

by a citizen

with concern

from other countries

to the mayor

around the park

before the election

in the newspaper

across the city

toward the future
