



The Writing Center



Prepositional Phrases

Preposition

A preposition is a word (often small) that links nouns, pronouns, or phrases to other words in a sentence. The word or phrase that the preposition introduces is called the object of the preposition. The preposition usually indicates a relationship based on time, space, or logic.

Prepositional Phrase

A prepositional phrase is made up of the preposition, modifiers (adjectives or adverbs), and the object. A prepositional phrase will function as an adjective or an adverb:

As an adjective, a prepositional phrase answers the question-which one?

Example: The student **on the floor** is writing in agony and screaming.

Example: I want all of you to turn in the timesheet **with the pink and black border**.

As an adverb, a prepositional phrase answers the questions-How? When? Where?

Example: Micah is exhausted **from four straight hours of tutoring**.

Example: **Before going to the Writing Center**, Michael ate two burritos.

Remember: A prepositional phrase will NEVER contain the subject of the sentence!

Example: Neither of the supervisors knows what my current job is.

Example: Richard, along with the other supervisors, breathed a sigh of relief when Nicole returned.

List of Common Prepositions:

about	behind	from	on	toward
above	below	in	onto	under
across	beneath	in front of	on top of	underneath
after	beside	inside	out of	until
against	between	instead of	outside	up
along	by	into	over	upon
among	down	like	past	with
around	during	near	since	within
at	except	of	through	without
before	for	off	to	

Try It!

Underline as many prepositional phrases as you can in the paragraph below. There are a total of 22 prepositional phrases.

The hills across the valley of the Ebro were long and white. On this side there was not shade and no tress and the station was between two lines of rails in the sun. Close against the side of the station there was the warm shadow of the building and a curtain, made of strings of bamboo beads, hung across the open door into the bar, to keep out flies. The American and the girl with him sat at a table in the shade, outside the building. It was very hoe and the express from Barcelona would come in forty minutes. It stopped at this junction for two minutes and went onto Madrid.