

# The Preposition

## Prepositions

**3c.** A **preposition** is a word that shows the relationship of a noun or pronoun, called the **object of the preposition**, to another word.

**EXAMPLES** I planted roses **in** the flower bed. [The preposition *in* shows the relationship of *planted* to *flower bed*.]

The light **beside** the desk doesn't work. [The preposition *beside* shows the relationship of *light* to *desk*.]

By using a different preposition, you can change the relationship of *light* to *desk*.

**EXAMPLES** The light **above** the desk doesn't work. [The preposition *above* shows the relationship between *light* and *desk*.]

The light **on** the desk doesn't work. [The preposition *on* shows the relationship between *light* and *desk*.]

### COMMON PREPOSITIONS

about	above	along	around
at	before	by	down
during	except	for	from
in	into	like	of
off	on	over	through
to	under	up	without

**EXERCISE A** Underline the preposition in each of the following sentences.

**Examples** 1. The path through the woods suddenly ended. [The preposition *through* shows the relationship of *path* to *woods*.]

2. Is that our cat sitting on the roof? [The preposition *on* shows the relationship of *sitting* to *roof*.]

1. A lizard ran across my foot. [Which word shows the relationship of *ran* to *foot*?]
2. Were all the charges listed on the bill? [Which words shows the relationship of *listed* to *bill*?]
3. Address the letter to Mr. Salina.
4. The rabbits along the road sat motionlessly.
5. Without a sound, the curtain fell.
6. Haven't you heard any music by Gloria Estefan?
7. After ten minutes, the buzzer will stop.
8. We need somebody with a bicycle.

9. Do not jump on the bed!
10. Seagulls circled around the ferry.

## Compound Prepositions

Some prepositions are *compound* and consist of more than one word.

### COMMONLY USED COMPOUND PREPOSITIONS

according to	along with	aside from	in addition to
in front of	in spite of	instead of	on account of

**EXAMPLES** Walk **along with** me to the library. [The compound preposition *along with* shows the relationship of *Walk* to *me*.]

My house is **next to** the park. [The compound preposition *next to* shows the relationship of *house* to *park*.]

**EXERCISE B** Underline the preposition(s) in each of the following sentences. Remember to underline all words in a compound preposition. Hint: Some sentences may have more than one preposition.

**Examples** 1. I need the book with the red cover on the top shelf. [The preposition *with* shows the relationship of *book* to *cover*. The preposition *on* shows the relationship of *book* to *shelf*.]

2. Use markers instead of paint. [The compound preposition *instead of* shows the relationship of *markers* to *paint*.]

11. The boy in front of Matt plays the drums. [Which words show the relationship of *boy* to *Matt*?]
12. In ten minutes, the reporter will interview the winner of the race. [Which word shows the relationship of *will interview* to *minutes*? Which word shows the relationship of *winner* to *race*?]
13. We hiked along the trail up the mountainside.
14. No, they never cancel on account of rain.
15. Do you know who took the clock off the wall?
16. We could plant laurels instead of pine trees or cedar trees.
17. Were those birds flying out of the cave?
18. Have you seen the movie about the baby bear alone in the forest?
19. According to the newspaper, there is a fifty percent chance of rain today.
20. Is that package for you or me?

for CHAPTER 5: THE PHRASE pages 96-99

## The Prepositional Phrase

**5b.** A **prepositional phrase** includes a preposition, a noun or pronoun called the *object of the preposition*, and any modifiers of that object.

**EXAMPLES** on Tuesday afternoon [The preposition is *on* and the object of the preposition is *afternoon*. *Tuesday* modifies *afternoon*.]  
 with him [The preposition is *with* and the object of the preposition is *him*.]  
 in addition to San Antonio [The preposition is *in addition to* and the object of the preposition is *San Antonio*.]

**NOTE** A preposition may have more than one object.

**EXAMPLE** with **him** and **me**. [Both *him* and *me* are objects of the preposition *with*.]

**EXERCISE A** Underline the prepositional phrase in each of the following sentences.

**Example 1.** Will you be attending the play on Thursday or Friday? [The preposition is *on* and the objects of the preposition are *Thursday* and *Friday*.]

1. Snowflakes swirled around my family. [Which word group begins with a preposition and ends with an object of the preposition?]
2. Your estimate was right on the mark.
3. Far into the night they worked.
4. Mrs. Thomas, do you have a book about stars and planets?
5. Someone with a camcorder could tape the show.

### Adjective Phrases

Like all phrases, a prepositional phrase acts as a single part of speech. Prepositional phrases can act as adjectives or as adverbs.

**5c.** A prepositional phrase that modifies a noun or a pronoun is called an **adjective phrase**.

Like an adjective, an adjective phrase tells *what kind* or *which one*.

**ADJECTIVES** a **Persian** rug [The adjective *Persian* tells what kind of rug.]

**this** rug [The adjective *this* tells which rug.]

**ADJECTIVE PHRASES** a rug **from Persia** [The adjective phrase *from Persia* tells what kind of rug.]

the rug **in the front room** [The adjective phrase *in the front room* tells which rug.]

