

Lesson 176

Parts of the Sentence - Prepositional Phrases

A **preposition** is a word that begins a **prepositional phrase** and shows the relationship between its object and another word in the sentence. A **preposition** must always have an object. A **prepositional phrase** starts with a **preposition**, ends with an **object**, and may have **modifiers** between the preposition and the object of the preposition.

Here is a list of common words that can be used as prepositions: *about, above, across, after, against, along, among, around, at, before, behind, below, beneath, beside, besides, between, beyond, but (when it means except), by, concerning, down, during, except, for, from, in, inside, into, like, near, of, off, on, out, outside, over, past, since, through, to, toward, under, until, up, upon, with, within, and without.*

These words can be used as other parts of speech, depending on how the word is used in a particular sentence. Many of the common words used as prepositions can be used as **adverbs**. Words are prepositions if they have an object to complete them.

To decide if the word in question is a preposition, say the **preposition** followed by *whom* or *what*. If a **noun** or a **pronoun** answers the question, the word is a **preposition**. If there is no noun or pronoun to complete the phrase, the word is not a **preposition**.

Example: The boy stood *up* and ran *down* the street. *Up* what? There is no **object**; therefore *up* is not a preposition. *Down* what? *Street* answers the question; therefore, *down* is a preposition. **Down the street** is the prepositional phrase starting with the preposition *down* and ending with the object *street* with a modifier *the* in between.

A **prepositional phrase** may be used as an **adjective** telling *which* or *what kind* and modifying a **noun** or **pronoun**. An **adjective prepositional phrase** will come right after the noun or pronoun that it modifies. If there are two **adjective prepositional phrases** together, one will follow the other. Only **adjective prepositional phrases** modify the **object** of the **preposition** in another prepositional phrase.

Instructions: Pick out the **adjective prepositional phrases** in these sentences and tell what they modify.

1. Do you remember the title of the new book about morals?

2. Our work on the planning commission covers all kinds of ideas and concepts.

3. Those immense houses on the west side of town were built recently.

4. The man in the next room is the mayor.

5. Few of the citizens had ever seen that plan.