

Lesson 178

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 **adverb** telling *how, when, where, how much, and why* and modifying the **verb** and sometimes an **adjective**. **Adverb prepositional phrases** can come anywhere in the sentence and can be moved within the sentence without changing the meaning. Only **adjective prepositional phrases** modify the **object** of the **preposition** in another prepositional phrase.

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

1. The boys jumped quickly over the wall.

2. The old dog is troublesome in many ways.

3. The pirate map was hidden underneath a big rock.

4. The family was waiting for us at the rest stop.

5. In the morning I will come for the plans.