

## Lesson 180

### 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.

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.

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

1. A number of javalinas appeared at the edge of the forest.

2. In the cage we saw a huge jaguar from the jungles of Brazil.

3. Everyone in the class finished the test at the same time.

4. The children were awakened by a sudden clap of loud thunder.

5. You can go to the Jazz game with us.