

Preposition

A word that shows how a noun or pronoun is related to another word in the sentence.

Prepositional phrase

A phrase that begins with a preposition and ends with a noun or a pronoun.

A **preposition** shows a relationship between a noun or a pronoun and another word in the sentence. The noun or pronoun that follows the preposition is called the object of the preposition.

The preposition, the object of the preposition, and any words in between make up a **prepositional phrase**.

EXAMPLES

Danzel gave his ticket **to** Angie. (The preposition *to* shows the relationship of *Angie*, the object of the preposition, to *gave*.)

Jan read the letter **from** Mary. (The preposition *from* shows the relationship of *Mary*, the object of the preposition, to *letter*.)

When the preposition changes, the relationship between the words in the sentence changes. Notice how the relationship between *spoke* and *Ben* changes in the following sentences.

EXAMPLES

Joseph spoke **to** Ben.

Joseph spoke **about** Ben.

Joseph spoke **for** Ben.

Here is a list of commonly used prepositions.

about	around	beneath	for	near	out	to
above	at	beside	from	of	over	under
across	before	down	in	off	past	until
after	behind	during	into	on	through	with

Activity A Complete each of these sentences with a preposition. Write the complete sentence on your paper. More than one preposition may make sense in the sentence. Choose just one.

- 1) The apples _____ the tree are ripe.
- 2) The story _____ Edgar Allan Poe was written in 1838.
- 3) The girl _____ the picture is my sister.
- 4) The boots _____ the chair are mine.
- 5) The girl _____ Ken is a good dancer.

In a prepositional phrase, the preposition may have more than one object.

EXAMPLE Conchetta is friends with **Luke and Theo**.
(*Luke and Theo* is the compound object of the preposition *with*.)

In a prepositional phrase, the object of a preposition may have adjectives in front of it.

EXAMPLE across **the muddy** field

Because adverbs can answer questions about adjectives, a prepositional phrase may also contain an adverb.

EXAMPLE after the **very** long meeting

Usually when the object of the preposition is a pronoun, no other words are between the preposition and its object or objects.

EXAMPLES to him beside it between you and me

A sentence may have more than one prepositional phrase.

EXAMPLE We bought groceries **for supper at the store**.

Activity B Write the prepositional phrases in these sentences on your paper. Underline the preposition once and its object or objects twice. A sentence may have more than one prepositional phrase.

- 1) Write your name in the left-hand corner.
- 2) They live near a very busy highway.
- 3) Would you please sit on the bench with Sal and me?
- 4) Give this book about Mexico to him.
- 5) Early in the morning, the sun shines through the front window.

Activity C Write sentences for each of these prepositions on your paper.

Example around—Her house is **around the corner**.

- | | | | |
|------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| 1) about | 4) during | 7) under | 10) through |
| 2) through | 5) beside | 8) in | 11) behind |
| 3) with | 6) down | 9) across | 12) after |

Compound prepositions are made up of more than one word.

EXAMPLES

according to	in spite of
because of	instead of
in addition to	out of
in front of	as far as
in place of	along with

Activity D Write the prepositional phrase in these sentences on your paper. Underline the compound preposition in each phrase.

Example John stood in front of Maria.—in front of Maria

- 1) According to Jorge, the party was fun.
- 2) I am going instead of Tim.
- 3) Tranh will speak in place of Judy.
- 4) In spite of the heavy rain, they played the soccer game.
- 5) Donna sat in front of Karl.
- 6) Because of his bad cold, Abdul stayed home.

Part A Write the prepositional phrases in these sentences on your paper. Underline the preposition once. Underline its object twice. A sentence may have more than one prepositional phrase.

- 1) My dog Honey was sleeping in the shade under a tree.
- 2) Suddenly, a loud noise in the street frightened her.
- 3) Honey ran around the yard wildly.
- 4) From the porch, I called her inside the house.
- 5) She dashed up the stairs instantly.
- 6) I almost fell onto my back when she jumped into my arms.
- 7) The noise had come from my neighbor's old car.
- 8) In spite of its age, the car still ran.
- 9) Mr. Kostas did have trouble starting the car during a rainstorm.
- 10) After a few tries, he could usually get it going.

Part B Write all the prepositional phrases in these sentences on your paper. A sentence may have more than one prepositional phrase.

- 1) Emilio was studying for his final exams.
- 2) He stayed in his room and studied for several hours.
- 3) Cal called him on the telephone.
- 4) "I need some help from you with my math," he said.
- 5) Cal lived around the corner.
- 6) After a few minutes, he arrived in a panic.
- 7) He burst into Emilio's room.
- 8) "Please help me with these problems," Cal begged.
- 9) In addition to a math test, Cal had an English test the next day.
- 10) In spite of his worries, Cal passed both tests.

A prepositional phrase begins with a preposition and ends with a noun or a pronoun. A prepositional phrase may be used as an adjective phrase or as an adverb phrase.

An adjective is a word that describes or defines a noun or pronoun. A prepositional phrase used as an adjective does the same thing as an adjective. The phrase tells *which one*, *what kind*, or *how many*.

EXAMPLES

The house **across the street** was sold. (*Which house? The one across the street.*)

This book **by Judy Blume** is popular. (*Which book? The one by Judy Blume.*)

An adjective usually comes before the noun it describes. An adjective phrase always follows the noun it describes.

EXAMPLES

Adjective: The **Wilson High** team won.

Prepositional phrase: The team **from Wilson High** won.

Activity A Write the adjective phrase in bold on your paper. Beside each phrase, write the noun or pronoun it describes.

Example A friend **of mine** called. **of mine—friend**

- 1) The boy **with me** is my cousin.
- 2) The flowers **on the table** are beautiful.
- 3) We built a house **of bricks and stone**.
- 4) None **of the girls** left early.
- 5) The poem **by Maya Angelou** was beautiful.

Activity B Rewrite these sentences on your paper. Add an adjective phrase to describe the noun in bold. Be sure each phrase begins with a preposition.

- 1) The **story** was exciting to read.
- 2) Sue bought **tickets**.
- 3) Mom studied the **map**.
- 4) The **lamp** needed a new bulb.
- 5) The **house** looked empty.

An adjective phrase can describe the object of another preposition.

EXAMPLE

The man **at the end of the line** is Mr. Jones.

The adjective phrase *at the end* describes the noun *man*; the adjective phrase *of the line* describes the noun *end*.

Activity C Write the adjective phrases in these sentences on your own paper. Beside each phrase, write the noun or pronoun it describes.

- 1) The woods beside the lake near our house are dark.
- 2) Elvin's dad owns a shoe store in the mall beside Jones River.
- 3) The woman with the baby in her arms is my aunt.
- 4) The lamp on the table beside your bed needs a new lightbulb.
- 5) All of the people in the auditorium cheered.

Activity D Rewrite these sentences on your paper. Add an adjective phrase after each noun or pronoun in bold.

- 1) **Everyone** enjoys the football **games**.
- 2) Several **friends** are coming to the **party**.
- 3) The **dish** fell from the **counter**.
- 4) The **man** bought a new **car**.
- 5) The **teacher** liked that **book**.
- 6) The **library** closed at **noon**.

Lesson 2 Review

Lesson Review Write the adjective phrases in these sentences on your paper. Beside each phrase, write the noun or pronoun it describes.

Example The pen on Frank's desk has no ink.
on Frank's desk—pen

- 1) January temperatures in Alaska are very cold.
- 2) The beautiful pines throughout the state are snow-covered.
- 3) Maria studied the history of Alaska.
- 4) Vitus Bering was the first explorer of Alaska.
- 5) People from Russia also explored Alaska.
- 6) Juneau, on the southeast coast, became Alaska's capital city.
- 7) Alaska became the largest state in the United States.
- 8) The population of Alaska is very small.
- 9) Alaska is one of our last frontiers.
- 10) My aunt from Washington State visited Alaska.
- 11) Her vacation cruise through Alaska's icy waters lasted fourteen days.
- 12) The picture on the postcard she sent us showed a glacier.
- 13) Aunt Rita visited Mendenhall Glacier near Juneau.
- 14) The massive glacier before her covered an entire valley.
- 15) Her stories about her cruise are exciting.