

Preposition

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

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*.)

Prepositional phrase

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

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.

Lesson 1 Review

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.

An adverb is a word that answers questions about a verb. A prepositional phrase used as an adverb does the same thing as an adverb. It answers the questions *How? When? Where?* and *How much?* or *How long?*

EXAMPLES

Adverb: We shopped **rapidly**.

Adverb phrases: We shopped **in a hurry**. (*How did we shop? in a hurry*)

An adverb phrase may come anywhere in a sentence.

EXAMPLES

After supper, we napped.

We napped **after supper**.

Activity A Write the adverb phrase in bold in these sentences on your paper. Beside each phrase, write the question that the adverb phrase answers about the verb. Write *How? When? Where? How Much?* or *How long?*

- 1) **For three hours**, the band played.
- 2) Maria ironed her dress **with great care**.
- 3) Dad slid the roast **into the oven**.
- 4) **Before midnight**, the report was written.
- 5) Write your paragraph **in ink**.
- 6) They stayed **about an hour**.

An adverb phrase can also answer the question *Why?* about a verb.

EXAMPLE

They were crying **because of the sad ending**. (*Why were they crying? because of the sad ending*)

Activity B Write the adverb phrase that answers the question *Why?* in each of these sentences on your paper.

- 1) I ran inside because of the rain.
- 2) She shopped for dinner.
- 3) Will you sing for me?
- 4) Because of his fever, Jeff stayed home.

An adverb can describe an adjective or another adverb. An adverb phrase can do the same.

EXAMPLES

Fred is now taller **by three inches**. (*Taller* is an adjective. The adverb phrase *by three inches* tells how much taller Fred is.)

In the race, Dan ran faster than Jack **by eight seconds**. (*Faster* is an adverb. The adverb phrase *by eight seconds* tells how much faster Dan ran.)

Activity C Write the adverb phrases in these sentences on your paper. A sentence may have more than one adverb phrase.

- 1) Put the paper in the trash can.
- 2) His office is on the third floor in that tall building.
- 3) She shopped with her mother at the store.
- 4) Carol wrote for the school newspaper.
- 5) The firefighters saved the family from the fire.
- 6) Because of the weather, officials ended the game.
- 7) Tina is older than her sister by five minutes.

Activity D Rewrite these sentences on your paper. Add an adverb phrase that answers *How?* *When?* *Where?* or *How much?* about the word in bold.

- 1) Zack **walks** every day.
- 2) They **arrived**.
- 3) Luisa **took** her coat.
- 4) Bob got the **highest** grade on the test.
- 5) The winds **blew** very hard.
- 6) Please **answer**.

Lesson 3 Review

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

- 1) Marcus studies computer technology at Hanover Community College.
- 2) He will study there for two years.
- 3) Someday Marcus might work on computers in a bank.
- 4) During the early 1950s, the first computers were installed in business firms.
- 5) Now computers sit on office desks everywhere.
- 6) At school, Marcus learns about computer languages.
- 7) A computer programmer works with computer languages.
- 8) Because of the programmer's directions, the computer performs its job without a problem.

Part B Write whether the prepositional phrase in bold is an adjective or adverb phrase. Write your answers on your paper.

- 1) The letter **from Mary** arrived yesterday.
- 2) **At the concert**, the orchestra played the music of **Brahms**.
- 3) Both boys go **to Hanover Community College**.
- 4) Bess plays **for the Wilson High School soccer team**.
- 5) The gift **from my aunt** arrived **before my birthday**.
- 6) **During the winter** we enjoy skiing.
- 7) Honey chased a cat **up a tree**.
- 8) A girl **in my class** wrote a short story **about her summer vacation**.
- 9) She sent the story **to a magazine**.
- 10) The day **after tomorrow** is my birthday.

The object of the preposition is always a noun or a pronoun. Do not confuse a prepositional phrase with an infinitive, which begins with the word *to*. The word that follows *to* in an infinitive is a verb.

EXAMPLES

Infinitives:

He wants **to leave** early.He hopes **to have** a job.

Prepositional phrases:

Chen went **to the bank**.Fran wrote a letter **to her aunt**.

Activity A Write on your paper whether the phrase in bold in these sentences is an *infinitive* or a *prepositional phrase*.

- 1) Marcus went **to his class**.
- 2) He likes **to work** with computers.
- 3) “Turn **to page 8**,” the teacher said.
- 4) Marcus began **to read** his lesson.
- 5) He wanted **to ask** the teacher a question.
- 6) He went **to practice** on the computer.
- 7) Bill sent a get-well card **to his friend**.
- 8) The girl ran **to catch** the bus.
- 9) People on the bus waved **to her**.
- 10) Lynda climbed **to the top** of a high hill.

Activity B Write five sentences on your paper using the word *to*. Beside each sentence, write whether *to* introduces a prepositional phrase or an infinitive.

The object of the preposition is always a noun or a pronoun. If the object of a preposition is a pronoun, it must be in the objective case.

EXAMPLE Incorrect: She sat between Hector and I.
Correct: She sat between Hector and **me**.

Possessive nouns and pronouns are NOT used as objects of prepositions.

EXAMPLE Incorrect: Roland went home with **his**.
Correct: Roland went home with **him**.
OR
Roland went home with **his friend**.

Activity C Write the prepositional phrases in these sentences on your paper. Underline the object of the preposition in each phrase.

- 1) Daria wanted to study with her friend.
- 2) The table was empty, so I put my books on it.
- 3) Patrick studied by himself.
- 4) We bought gifts for everyone.
- 5) They had to choose between them.
- 6) Marty asked, "May I have a salad with this?"

Activity D Write these sentences on your paper. Correct any mistakes.

- 1) Please bring a coat for Pete and I.
- 2) Sam bought a soda for his.
- 3) Susan passed out papers to theirs.
- 4) Let's keep this secret between you and I.

The object of a preposition usually comes after the preposition. However, sometimes the preposition and its object are separated in sentences that ask questions.

EXAMPLE

Object Preposition

What did you do that for?

Activity E Write on your paper the prepositions and their objects in these sentences on your paper.

- 1) Whom are you talking about?
- 2) Whom are Dionne and Len with?
- 3) What is that book about?
- 4) What was she was thinking of?

Activity F Write all the prepositional phrases in this paragraph on your paper. Do **not** include the three infinitives that are in the paragraph.

Have you ever heard of Mary Lyon? She was a pioneer in the education of women. Mary Lyon was born in 1797. She died in 1849. She taught in schools in New Hampshire and in Massachusetts. In those days, only rich women could get a good education. She raised money to begin a school for middle-class women. In 1837, she opened a school in Massachusetts. The name of the school was Mount Holyoke. There women studied about mathematics, science, and Latin. Mary Lyon's only goal was to teach. She won the love of everyone through her work. Mary Lyon wanted to give women confidence in themselves.

Lesson 4 Review

Lesson Review Write the prepositional phrases in these sentences on your paper.

- 1) Marcus would like to get a job in a bank or an accounting firm.
- 2) He likes to work with computers.
- 3) Marcus had to study for a test.
- 4) He studied with Anita and me.
- 5) The teacher gave the test to everyone.
- 6) The students had to concentrate hard on the questions.
- 7) They had prepared for the test all week.
- 8) Marcus made a mistake on his paper.
- 9) "What did I do that for?" he thought.
- 10) Finally, he was finished with the test.
- 11) He gave his paper to the teacher and breathed a sigh of relief.
- 12) Marcus waved good-bye to his friends and ran out the door.
- 13) The bus came early on Wednesdays, and he didn't want to miss it.
- 14) The bus driver waited for Marcus to get to the bus stop.
- 15) During the ride, Marcus took some time to think about the test.