



# Prepositions

Prepositions show relationships between nouns/pronouns and other words in a sentence.

Prepositions indicate a relationship that tells you where something is or when something happened.

- ⇒ **Example:** Are they **behind** us?
- ⇒ **Example:** Will they be arriving **in** one hour or **at** noon?

Prepositions can also show more abstract ideas such as contrast.

- ⇒ **Example:** We wanted to go **for** a run **except** we were too tired.

## Common Prepositions

About	Around	Between	For	Off	Toward
Above	At	Beyond	From	On	Under
Across	Before	But	In	Over	Underneath
After	Behind	By	Into	Past	Until
Against	Below	Down	Like	Since	With
Along	Beneath	During	Near	Through	Within
Among	Beside	Except	Of	Throughout	Without

## Examples of Prepositions

- Location (ex. above, below, next to, beside)
  - ⇒ **Example:** The puppy runs **through** the park.
  - ⇒ **Example:** The puppy is **in** the bowl.
  - ⇒ **Example:** The puppy is **beside** the soccer ball.
- Direction ( ex. down, toward)
  - ⇒ **Example:** The tire rolled **down** the hill.
  - ⇒ **Example:** The truck drives **around** the city.
  - ⇒ **Example:** Meet me **at** the stop sign.





- Association (ex. as, without)
  - ⇒ **Example: During** the rainstorm, I splashed around in my yellow rain boots.
  - ⇒ **Example: For** many of us, it is a struggle to get up before noon.
  - ⇒ **Example: Within** an egg, one can find the yolk.

## Tips on Prepositions

- A preposition is followed by a **noun** or **pronoun**.
- Prepositions are sometimes referred to as “**function words**.”
- A preposition is never followed by a **verb**.
  - ⇒ **Incorrect example:** She **in** lives Romeoville, Illinois.
  - ⇒ **Correct example:** She lives **in** Romeoville, Illinois.
- If English is not your native language, do not try to translate prepositions into your first language; instead, learn prepositions in conjunction with the surrounding words.

## Prepositional Phrases

- A prepositional phrase always begins with a preposition and ends with a noun or pronoun.
- A prepositional phrase consists of two basic parts: **the preposition** and *the object*.
  - ⇒ **Example: In the kitchen,** you will find freshly baked chocolate chip cookies.
- A preposition usually signals the beginning of a prepositional phrase.
  - ⇒ **Example: In the morning,** I eat breakfast.
  - ⇒ **Example: On Monday,** I am not very energized to do much work.
- The ending noun or pronoun of a prepositional phrase is called the object.
  - ⇒ **Example: Under my bed,** I store my shoe boxes.
- Adjectives can be placed between the prepositions and objects in prepositional phrases.
  - ⇒ **Example:** Chris hit the baseball **over the white fence**.
- The subject of the sentence can never be part of the prepositional phrase.
  - ⇒ **Example:** The donut fell **on the floor**.



- A verb can never be part of a prepositional phrase.
  - ⇒ **Example:** After class, we ate dinner.
- If the sentence starts with a prepositional phrase, a comma must be placed at the end of it; however, if the prepositional phrase is in the middle or end of the sentence, you may not need a comma.
  - ⇒ **Example:** At school, students socialize with peers.
  - ⇒ **Example:** There is a large bug on the wall.

**Further Assistance:** For more detailed help or if you have questions, visit the Writing Center located in the Lewis University Library or call 815-836-5427.

**Sources Consulted:** Grammarly, Grammar Bytes!, Grammar Tips