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

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<td>Among</td>
<td>Beside</td>
<td>Except</td>
<td>Of</td>
<td>Throughout</td>
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### 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