

Prepositions

Recognizing Prepositions

A preposition is a word placed before a noun or pronoun to indicate its relationship to some other word in the sentence.

A preposition is followed by a noun or pronoun. That noun or pronoun is the **object of the preposition**.

• Most often used prepositions.

at	from	on
by	in	to
for	of	with

The store closes **at** midnight.
The letter is **in** the mailbox.
The letter is **for** you.

• Other common prepositions.

about	before	down	out
above	behind	during	over
across	below	inside	through
after	beside	into	under
around	between	near	until

They walked **around** the lake.
The dancers arrived **before** lunch.
(You) Walk **across** the street and **into** the store.
He looked **under** the table **near** the porch.

Exercise 1. Write three prepositions that could complete each sentence.

1. They waited - the phone. *by, near, on*
2. She threw a rock - the creek. *across, into, at*
3. The address was - the door. *near, above, next to*
4. The book - the table is mine.
5. Put them - the basket.

1. She walked to the window.
2. The books are on the table.
3. The juice is in the cupboard near the canned fruit.
4. I will call you the minute I know the answer.
5. What would you like with your cereal?
6. They met by the pond in the park.
7. Ira arrived at exactly ten o'clock.
8. We live behind a grove of trees.
9. The search and rescue patrol finished early.
10. Our family arrived after everyone had left.
11. They slept during the entire parade.
12. We couldn't leave without them.
13. Your coat is on the seat in our car.
14. Jean put the boxes under the table.
15. They walked through the gate and into the yard.
16. He left the very next day.
17. She returned after midnight.
18. They drove to the house in the country.
19. What is between those trees?
20. Put it in your backpack.

Exercise 2. Underline the prepositions. Be alert. Three sentences do not have prepositions. Six sentences have at least two prepositions.

6. The cat sat - the dog.
7. Alice lives - the lake.
8. We'll go - school.
9. They talked - the show.
10. We stood - the boat.
11. She found them - the dresser.
12. We ate - the playground.
13. The children ran - me.
14. The house is - the hill - large trees.
15. Put the keys - the basket - the window.
16. The car is - the store.
17. The man sat - the blue car - the tree.
18. Apples are - the box.
19. Talk - me.
20. What is - the refrigerator?

1. I was standing in line.
2. Put your bike against the wall.
3. You can't go beyond the next house.
4. Can you walk around it?
5. They brought the food into the large kitchen.
6. Elise sat between us.
7. She walked to the door and called to me.
8. Ari walked toward the door.
9. He phoned from New York City.
10. Our house is beyond the church.
11. Bring it into the bright light.
12. I am afraid of dogs.
13. My aunt arrived during lunch.
14. Your fingerprints are on the bedroom window.
15. Our house is among elm trees.

Exercise 1. The preposition is underlined. Circle the noun or pronoun that is the object of the preposition. *Put () around phrase.*

- Andrew gave it to me.
 The call is for Jane.
 They walked into the room.
 Elena parked beside the large green house.
 They rode to the park and walked across the bridge.

These sample sentences have the preposition and its object underlined. Remember, the object of the preposition is the first noun or pronoun after the preposition.

The preposition connects the object (the noun or pronoun) to another word in the sentence.

The noun or pronoun that follows a preposition is the object of the preposition.

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Object of the Preposition

Exercise 3. Underline both the preposition and the object, if any.

- 1. June is in love with Jeff.
- 2. Have you driven to the Coast?
- 3. I think the waves on the Oregon Coast are outstanding.
- 4. I'm over here in the bushes.
- 5. How old will you be on your next birthday?
- 6. They're staying for the weekend.
- 7. Don and Jane are coming to our house on Friday.
- 8. Barbara, come here please.
- 9. I need your help with this math problem.
- 10. It's a really tough one.
- 11. I took some pictures with my new camera.
- 12. They came out very well.
- 13. Can we go for ice cream?
- 14. Yes, in a minute.
- 15. Do you have any in your refrigerator?

Exercise 2. Underline both the preposition and the object of the preposition.

- 1. Who lives across the street?
- 2. I have a good picture of my house.
- 3. Mother sat behind them.
- 4. Our house is beyond your house.
- 5. I put my book under the chair in your kitchen.
- 6. I rode home by myself.
- 7. The house near the store is red.
- 8. The book beneath the boxes is mine.
- 9. They arrived at six o'clock.
- 10. I came to school earlier today.
- 11. We have been here since yesterday.
- 12. They could not leave without it.
- 13. Edgar called from the neighbor's house.
- 14. He came for a special occasion.
- 15. Look in the box near the back door.

* Put prepos (around (phras))
 underline prep; circle object.