

PREPOSITIONS

A preposition is a word that _____

A preposition never stands alone in a sentence. It is used with a noun or pronoun called the **object of the preposition**. Usually that noun or pronoun follows the preposition. A prepositional phrase can appear in many different places in the sentence, and adds detail to a sentence.

For example:

Simple sentence without a prepositional phrase:

We ate ice cream.

Prepositional phrase to start the sentence:

During the heatwave we ate ice cream.

Prepositional phrase at the end of the sentence:

During the heatwave we ate ice cream **in the shade**.

Prepositional phrase in the middle of a sentence:

The ice cream **with peanut butter cups** is my favorite.

Two or more prepositional phrases in a row:

During the heatwave in August, we ate ice cream **in the shade of the elm tree in our yard**.

Commonly Used Prepositions

aboard	above	after	along	around
about	across	against	among	at
before	by	into	since	until
behind	down	like	through	up
below	during	of	throughout	upon
beneath	except	off	to	with
beside	for	on	toward	within
between	from	over	under	without
beyond	in	past	underneath	

The difference between an adverb and a preposition

If the word functions as an adverb and stands alone, it is an adverb.

The ball went underneath.

If the word functions as an adverb and is followed by a noun or pronoun, it is a preposition.

The ball went underneath the table.

Practice Exercise One: Using prepositions

Fill in the blank with an appropriate preposition and underline the object of the preposition.

1. We watched television _____ dinner.
2. She ran _____ the park.
3. A boat sailed _____ the river.
4. The dog crawled _____ the fence.
5. The runner jogged _____ the gym.

Practice Exercise Two: Identifying prepositions and the object of the phrase

Circle the preposition in each sentence and underline the prepositional phrase.

1. Before the movie we had dinner at CBS Scene. (Two prepositional phrases)
2. During the meal we watched a funny television show. (One)
3. I ordered a hamburger with a side of french fries. (Two)
4. After dinner, we walked towards Gillette Stadium to see where the Patriots play. (Two)
5. We then went to the movie theater by the stadium. (Two)
6. *The Interview* with Seth Rogan looked funny, but we were in the mood for a drama. (Three)
7. During some of the previews, I went and bought two sodas and a bag of popcorn without butter. (Four)
8. Returning to my seat, I had to walk around a group of friends, through a hallway, towards a door, up some stairs, and across a row of moviegoers. (Seven)
9. Throughout the movie we wondered if a minor character with a sinister grin would ever play a larger role in the plot. (Three)
10. After the movie we got coffee at Dunkin Donuts and discussed the suspenseful ending of the film. (Three)