What Is a Preposition?

A **preposition** is a word used to show a relationship between a noun or pronoun and some other word in the sentence. A preposition is always followed by an object, either a noun or a pronoun.

Some common prepositions are: *about, across, behind, beneath, beside, between, by, during, for, from, in, like, of, on, over, to, under, until, with, and without*.

A **prepositional phrase** consists of a preposition, its object, and any modifiers of the object. The **object of the preposition** is the noun or pronoun following the preposition.

Dogs help humans **in many ways**. (The preposition is *in*, the object of the preposition is *ways*, and the prepositional phrase is *in many ways*.)

Sometimes the same word can be used as a preposition or as an adverb. If there is no object, the word is an adverb.

**Adverb**

My dog jumped **up**.

**Preposition**

The cat climbed **up** the tree.

A. Finding Prepositions and Their Objects

Underline the preposition in each sentence. Underline the object or objects of the preposition twice.

1. Dogs have been trained to perform a wide variety of jobs.
2. Watchdogs protect their owners’ homes from burglars.
4. Police dogs can smell drugs in suitcases.
5. Hunting dogs lead hunters to wild game.
6. Dogs are good companions for older people who may be lonely.

B. Recognizing Prepositions and Adverbs

Decide whether the boldfaced word is a preposition or an adverb. Write **P** on the line if it is a preposition. Write **A** if it is an adverb.

1. Over our heads, great formations of geese were flying north. __________
2. As they flew **over**, we thought we could hear their wild cries. __________
3. Please ask the children to come **inside** because of the storm. __________
4. With all that lightning, they will be safer **inside** the house. __________
5. After years on the bench, the judge decided to step **down**. __________
6. Alice fell **down** the rabbit hole. __________
What Is a Preposition?

A. Identifying Prepositions and Their Objects
Underline each preposition once. Circle the object of the preposition. Sentences may have more than one prepositional phrase.

1. Above her head sat the Cheshire cat.
2. The train roared through the tunnel, blasting its horn.
3. On Tuesday my father’s car was parked inside the garage.
4. Hundreds of people swarmed into the theater for the concert.
5. Jan showed the lizard to her teacher before class.
6. At noon the colonel strode across the courtyard toward the gate.
7. Without doubt, spitting in the subway is against the law.
8. Our class has been running behind schedule until now.
9. Some of the disagreements between us are beside the point.
10. In the evenings of August, the katydids sang in the trees.

B. Writing with Prepositional Phrases
Underline the prepositional phrase in each sentence. Then replace that phrase with a different prepositional phrase, and write your new sentence on the line. Be sure to use a different preposition and a new object of the preposition.

EXAMPLE

The dog with the leather collar is mine.

The dog behind the fence is mine.

1. I took my dog to obedience class.

2. My dog’s problem is that it runs after squirrels.

3. The class was held in the school gym.

4. The instructor made us walk around the room together.

5. We practiced walking beside each other.

6. During class my dog seemed happy and calm.
A. Writing with Prepositional Phrases

Add one or more prepositional phrases to each simple sentence. Write your new sentence on the line.

1. The sheepdog ran.

__________________________________________________________________________________________

2. It barked.

__________________________________________________________________________________________

3. The sheep moved.

__________________________________________________________________________________________

4. The dog saw a wolf staring.

__________________________________________________________________________________________

5. The dog got up and ran.

__________________________________________________________________________________________

B. Writing with Prepositional Phrases

Use three of these prepositional phrases in an original story. Write your story on the lines below.

in the barn  with a strange name  down the road
by the pump  for fun  after the stranger
after sunrise  over the fence  near the house

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__________________________________________________________________________________________
A prepositional phrase is always related to another word in a sentence. It modifies the word in the same way an adjective or adverb does.

An adjective phrase is a prepositional phrase that modifies a noun or a pronoun. It can tell which one, how many, or what kind.

The room with many doors was confusing. (The phrase with many doors modifies the noun room.)

An adverb phrase is a prepositional phrase that modifies a verb, an adjective, or another adverb. It usually tells where, when, how, why, how many, how much, or how far.

Modifying a verb I stepped into a huge hall. (The phrase into a huge hall modifies the verb stepped.)

Modifying an adjective It was awesome in its beauty. (The phrase in its beauty modifies the adjective awesome.)

Modifying an adverb The doorknob turned easily for its age. (The phrase for its age modifies the adverb easily.)

Placement of Prepositional Phrases Place the prepositional phrase close to the word it modifies, or else you may confuse your readers.

Confusing With an angry roar, the mouse ran from a lion.

Better The mouse ran from a lion with an angry roar.

Identifying Prepositional Phrases

Underline the prepositional phrase in each sentence. If it is an adjective phrase, write ADJ on the line at the right. If it is an adverb phrase, write ADV.

1. Last night I had a dream about a strange castle. ________

2. As I remember, I was walking down a long hall. ________

3. On either side were beautiful statues. ________

4. Suddenly, a little man with a long beard called my name. ________

5. He asked me to follow him through the wall. ________

6. The wall before me was solid and hard. ________

7. The man disappeared before my eyes. ________

8. I decided that his request was impossible and continued my walk toward a tiny door. ________

9. The door had a small lock with a tiny key. ________

10. After I opened the door, I stepped into a dark forest. ________
A. Identifying Prepositional Phrases
In each sentence, underline the word modified by the boldfaced prepositional phrase. On the blank, write ADJ or ADV to identify what kind of prepositional phrase it is.

1. People always park on this street during rush hour. ________
2. During those long summer afternoons, we read books about pirates. ________
3. The family camped beside the clear lake. ________
4. I found an old photo of my great-grandmother in the attic. ________
5. I know little about any flowers except roses. ________
6. Rabbits live in burrows and under piles of brush. ________
7. Hovercraft have been used for transportation in a number of places. ________
8. Jim Gary makes sculptures of dinosaurs from old car parts. ________
9. No one but a fool would run across the highway in that traffic. ________
10. That field of corn will be gone within a year. ________

B. Placing Prepositional Phrases
Rewrite each sentence, changing the position of one or more prepositional phrases so that the sentence is no longer confusing.

EXAMPLE We see images in our dreams from our subconscious mind.
In our dreams we see images from our subconscious mind.

1. Dreams to real experiences are related in our lives.

2. Of their dreams some people remember none.

3. Many people in color dream.

4. Fantasy is in most dreams combined with fact.

5. Activity produces dreams in the brain.
A. Revising Sentences with Misplaced Prepositional Phrases
Rewrite each sentence, changing the position of one or more prepositional phrases so that the sentence is no longer confusing.

**EXAMPLE**  By the artist, the painting in the hall was signed.
*The painting in the hall was signed by the artist.*

1. Timothy mailed the letter to his grandmother in the post office.

2. Regina told us about the great vacation she had at lunch.

3. The clock stopped by the water fountain at 3:30.

4. Amanda threw her mother from the train a kiss.

5. We took photographs of the sea on the pier.

B. Using Prepositional Phrases as Adjectives and Adverbs
Add a prepositional phrase to each sentence. The type of phrase to add is indicated in parentheses after the sentence.

1. The dream was exciting. (Add an adjective phrase.)

2. I was running. (Add an adverb phrase.)

3. Turtles were chasing me. (Add an adverb phrase.)

4. Suddenly, a talking horse appeared next to me. (Add an adjective phrase.)

5. The horse and I came to a stairway. (Add an adjective phrase.)
Conjunctions

A **conjunction** is a word used to join words or groups of words. Different kinds of conjunctions do different jobs.

**Coordinating conjunctions** connect words or groups of words used in the same way. The words joined may be used as subjects, objects, predicates, or any other kind of sentence parts. Some common coordinating conjunctions are *and, but, or, nor, for, so,* and *yet.* Use *and* to connect similar things or ideas. Use *but* to contrast things or ideas.

For the rich, life in ancient China was elegant and easy.
Rich people at that time lived well, but they didn’t live as long as modern people.

**Correlative conjunctions** are pairs of conjunctions that connect words or groups of words used in the same way. Common correlative conjunctions are *both . . . and,* *either . . . or,* *neither . . . nor,* *not only . . . but also,* and *whether . . . or.*

Both servants and masters may have lived on the palace grounds.

**Identifying Conjunctions**

Underline all the conjunctions in the following sentences. Remember that there are two parts to a correlative conjunction.

1. Suppose you traveled back in time and landed in China around 100 B.C.
2. You would see houses made of wood and painted with lacquer.
3. Some houses have two stories and are topped with a watchtower to use as a lookout for spotting enemies.
4. The people are at peace right now, but who knows what the future holds?
5. The rich people live close to others, yet they live in a grander style.
6. For example, they wear fine silk shoes, socks, and robes.
7. Their palaces are filled with paintings and bronze ornaments.
8. Their palace grounds contain not only gardens but also ponds.
9. If you visited, you would want to go into a palace, for you would find it lovely.
10. When people got sick at that time, they were given medicines such as cinnamon and ground magnolia bark.
11. Neither wealth nor power keeps anyone from dying, however.
12. When rich people died, their tombs were filled with beautiful and costly possessions.
13. The dead could not use these items, but they were buried with them anyway.
14. For example, a tomb might hold a woman’s cosmetics and her clothes.
15. Some rich people were buried with either a real servant or with a clay servant.
16. The customs may seem strange, but most people were happy with the way they lived.
Conjunctions

A. Identifying Conjunctions
In the following sentences, underline the conjunctions.
1. Suppose you traveled in time back to Rome in 20 B.C., and you came to the
   house of a senator.
2. The house is on a busy street, but it is quiet and peaceful inside.
3. Many of the rooms front on an atrium, an open area that is used for relaxing
   and greeting visitors.
4. It is long ago, yet the house has a central heating system.
5. Rooms are decorated with either paintings or statues.
6. Not only rich people but also their servants live in the large house.
7. The floors are made of marble, and they are beautiful and strong.
8. The senator and his sons are well educated.
9. Usually, boys, but not girls, are tutored or attend school.
10. The senator’s family has a lifestyle that is elegant but normal for its place, time,
    and position.

B. Using Conjunctions
Complete each of the following sentences with a coordinating conjunction or a
cohesive conjunction.

**EXAMPLE** The job was hard, _________ it was also rewarding.

1. Lewis _________ Clark explored the West, _________ their story is fascinating.
2. I’ve never met Ms. Phelps _________ Mr. Olson, but I’ve heard about them.
3. We looked for a bus or a cab, _________ we ended up walking home.
4. I would like a sandwich _________ a glass of milk for lunch.
5. _________ children _________ adults enjoy the circus.
6. _________ you have the wrong phone number _________ you misdialed.
7. If _________ you _________ your brother wants to come, just let us know.
8. Deeane turned the light on _________ she could see where she was walking.
9. _________ we go _________ stay is up to you.
10. The speakers are small, _________ they have a big sound.
A. Proofreading

Proofread the following paragraph, adding appropriate conjunctions where they are needed.

Pioneer life in America during the 18th century was rough _______ simple. The log cabins pioneers built weren’t particularly pretty, _______ they did the job of keeping people warm and dry.

When the members of a pioneer family first reached their land, their first job was planting the garden _______ they would have something to eat when winter came. Their next job was to build a house. Many families got together to put up a house, _______ that get-together was called a house-raising. The men would cut the logs _______ lift them into place. _______ the men _______ the women and children helped build the house. After the walls were up, they pushed clay, moss, _______ mud between the logs. _______ the family would be warm and dry _______ uncomfortable during the winter depended upon how well each person did his _______ her job. The finished cabin had _______ floor _______ windows, but it was better than living in a tent.

B. Writing with Conjunctions

On the lines below, write a description of your home for someone who has never seen it. In your description, use at least two different coordinating conjunctions and two correlative conjunctions. Write the conjunctions on the correct lines below.

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________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Coordinating Conjunctions Correlative Conjunctions

__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
An interjection is a word or short phrase used to express emotion, such as wow or my goodness.

Oh, I’m so hungry!
Wow! That bee is huge!

Identifying Interjections
Read each sentence. If it contains an interjection, write the interjection on the line at the right. If it does not contain an interjection, write None on the line.

1. Hooray! Summer vacation is finally here! ____________
2. Honestly, I thought the year would never end. ____________
3. Let’s plan a huge picnic. ____________
4. Yum! I love picnic food! ____________
5. Gee, I wonder if it will rain on Saturday? ____________
6. Well, let’s plan the picnic for that day anyway. ____________
7. Today is a simply wonderful day for a picnic. ____________
8. Awesome! Someone brought enough brownies for everyone. ____________
9. Ridiculous! Of course we can have dessert first today. ____________
10. Yuck! Who dropped the watermelon? ____________
11. Ow! What just stung me? ____________
12. Heavens! Was that a baseball whizzing past my ear? ____________
13. No, I can’t eat another bite. ____________
14. Brrr! The water in the lake is still too cold for swimming. ____________
15. Who wants to play a game of touch football? Not me. ____________
16. Okay, who took the last soda? ____________
17. The rain is starting! ____________
18. Whew! We got everything packed away just in time! ____________
A. Identifying Interjections

Read each sentence. If it contains an interjection, write the interjection on the line at the right. If it does not contain an interjection, write None on the line.

1. Oh, my! It’s been snowing all night, and our street is blocked! ________________
2. Hooray! They’ve called off school today. ________________
3. Let’s make snow angels in the back yard. ________________
4. Well, I would like some cocoa and a cookie now. ________________
5. You found a good book to read? Excellent! ________________
6. The cable on the TV is out! Nuts! ________________
7. Frankly, I think snow days are terrific! ________________
8. I wonder if our teacher feels the same way. ________________
9. Ridiculous! What would she do without us? ________________
10. Wow! That day went by too quickly! ________________

B. Using Interjections

Write an interjection before each of these sentences.

**Example** Ouch! I stepped on a tack!

1. ________________, I would love to own that CD.
2. ________________, That looks disgusting!
3. ________________, We won!
4. ________________, That makes no sense at all.
5. ________________, I thought the last piece of pizza was mine!
6. ________________, What is in this container in the refrigerator?
7. ________________, It’s so cold today!
8. ________________, that song is one of my favorites.
9. ________________, That is not what I mean.
10. ________________, That’s great news!
A. Writing Sentences with Interjections

Write a sentence for each of these interjections. You can decide for yourself whether to use a comma or an exclamation point after the interjection. An exclamation point after an interjection shows stronger emotion than a comma does.

**EXAMPLE** ick  Ick! How long has that ice cream bar been here?

1. ouch ________________________________________________
2. hello ________________________________________________
3. ugh _________________________________________________
4. whew ________________________________________________
5. yikes ________________________________________________
6. gee _________________________________________________
7. whoa ________________________________________________
8. well _________________________________________________
9. hey _________________________________________________
10. no _________________________________________________

B. Writing a Diary Entry with Interjections

Write a diary entry about a day when everything went wrong from the time you got up until the time you went to bed. You can write about a real day you experienced or about an imaginary one. Whenever you want to express emotion, use an interjection. Use at least four interjections.

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