

RECOGNIZING PREPOSITIONAL PHRASES

What is a **preposition**? A preposition shows position, relationship, or direction. It is a “little” word expressing physical position (on, in, over, under, between, etc.) or position in time (until, after, during, etc.) or some other relationship with another person or thing (for, with, beside, near, etc.).

Common prepositions:

about	at	but (except)	in	onto	toward
above	before	by	inside	outside	under
across	behind	concerning	into	over	until
after	below	down	like	past	up
against	beneath	during	near	since	upon
along	beside	except	of	through	with
among	between	for	off	till	within
around	beyond	from	on	to	without

Prepositions are part of a group of words called a **prepositional phrase**. A prepositional phrase starts with a preposition and ends with a noun or a pronoun. Examples of prepositional phrases are “in our house” and “between friends” and “since the war.”

Sentences are often filled with prepositional phrases:

The dog ran down the path, over a rotting log, under the red painted bridge, along the rushing river, and into the dense woods.

The noun or pronoun at the end of a prepositional phrase is given a more specific name. It is called the **object of the preposition**. Pronouns, then, that are objects of prepositions are in the **objective case**, or **objective pronouns**. These pronouns are in the objective case: me, him, her, them, us, whom. It is correct to say, “I bought the presents for my brother and him” and “The boss offered the raise to George and me.”