



PREPOSITIONS

WHAT IS A PREPOSITION?

- A preposition introduces a noun or pronoun, linking it to other words in the sentence.

USING PREPOSITIONS

- Prepositions express several different kinds of information, such as:
 - Relation to time (*at* eight o'clock, gone *until* Monday)
 - Place (*in* the ocean, *over* the fence, *underneath* the bed)
 - Association (he went *with* Buddy)
 - Purpose (he went *for* me)
 - To introduce objects of verbs (laughed *at* the joke, dreams *of* being rich, looked *in* the book)

Commonly Used Prepositions

About	Between	Into	Past
Above	Beyond	Near	Than
Across	But	Next	Through
After	By	Of	To
Against	Despite	Off	Toward
As	During	On	Unlike
At	Except	Onto	Until
Before	For	Opposite	Unto
Behind	From	Out	With
Below	In	Outside	Within
Beside	Inside	Over	Without

RULES

1. A sentence cannot end with a preposition.

What time does the movie start *at*?

Instead use: What time does the movie start?

At what time does the movie start?

Who are you going on a date *with*?

Instead use: *With* whom are you going on a date?

2. Do not capitalize a preposition in a title unless it is the first word.

In Her Shoes

Field *of* Dreams

PREPOSITIONAL PHRASES

- When a noun or pronoun is added to a preposition, it is called a **prepositional phrase**. The word the preposition introduces is called an **object**. An object is a noun, pronoun, or group of words that receives the action of the verb.
- A prepositional phrase includes a preposition, its object, and any other **modifiers** (adjective, adverb, etc.) of that object.

Cindy danced *to the party's music*.

↑ "Party" is a modifier.

↑ "To" is the preposition,
and "the party's music"
is the object.

Cindy danced *to the party's music for three hours*.

↑ "Three" is a modifier.

↑ A sentence can have more than
one prepositional phrase. "For" is a
second preposition, and "three
hours" is the second object.

Cindy dance *to the party's music for three hours without stopping*.

↑ The third preposition is "without,"
and the object is "stopping."

- Prepositional phrases are used to add variety to a sentence.

Commonly Used Prepositional Phrases

1. On is used with specific dates and times
I went to the Smithsonian Museum **on** September 1st, 2013.
Christmas is **on** December 25th every year.
2. On is also used to indicate the location of an object
Sally put her book **on** the desk.
Brian fell and landed **on** his rear-end.
3. In is used with months, seasons, and years.
My family goes to Florida **in** the spring each year.
Mom promised we would go pumpkin-picking **in** October.
She was born **in** 1975.
4. In is also used to refer to parts of the day (in the morning, in the evening)
I wake up early **in** the morning.
The birds stop chirping late **in** the evening.
5. At is used to refer to specific parts of the day
I wake up **at** 5 in the morning.
The birds stop chirping **at** 8 o'clock in the evening.