

PART VI. PREPOSITION

It is a word that shows the relationship between a noun or a pronoun and some other word or element in the rest of the sentence.

Prepositions are always in prepositional phrases.

All of the words in a prepositional phrase come together to function as an adjective or adverb. (Sometimes they do other things, but we won't worry about that here!)

If the prepositional phrase is describing a noun, the phrase is functioning as an adjective. (Adjectives modify nouns and pronouns.)

*The **table** **with the broken leg** is downstairs.*

Since the prepositional phrase *with the broken leg* is modifying *table* (a noun), this prepositional phrase is acting as an adjective.

If the prepositional phrase is describing a verb, adverb, or an adjective, then it is acting like an adverb. (Adverbs modify verbs, adjectives, and other adverbs.)

What is a Preposition?

Sometimes it helps to start with examples and pictures.

In the picture above, all of the prepositions are underlined.

It is a word that describes the relationship between this caterpillar and this apple.

Prepositions are words that show the relationship between a noun or a pronoun and some other word or element in the rest of the sentence.

Let's discuss some examples. *She swam **across** the lake.*

Across connects the noun *lake* with the verb *swam*. It tells us where she *swam*. Do you see how the preposition tells us the relationship between *lake* and *swam*?

*Next example: The cupcake **with** sprinkles is mine.*

In this example, the preposition *with* is showing the relationship between the noun *sprinkles* and the noun *cupcake*. It tells us which *cupcake* is hers.

Is this still confusing? Are you still asking yourself, "So... what is a preposition?"

Let's look at a sentence diagram, shall we?

What is Prepositional Phrases?

A phrase a group of words that lacks either a subject or a verb and functions as a single part of speech.

A prepositional phrase consists of a preposition plus a noun or pronoun (the *object of the preposition*). Words like *down*, *in* are not always prepositions.

Compare: I ran down the road. He is in his office.

Please sit down. You can go in.

In the expressions *down the road* and *in his office*, *down* and *in* are prepositions: they have objects (the road and his office)

In the sentences: *Please sit down* and *You can go in*, **down** and **in** have no objects. They are not prepositions, but adverbs of place, which modify the verbs **sit** and **go**.

Small adverbs like this are usually called 'adverb particles' or 'adverbial particles'. They include *in*, *out*, *up*, *down*, *on*, *off*, *through*, *past*, *away*, *back*, *across*, *over*, *under*. Adverbial particles often join together with verbs to make two-word verbs. Examples: *break down* = stop working; *put off* = delay; *work out* = 'calculate'; *give up* = 'stop trying'

What's in a prepositional phrase?

Many English verbs have two parts; 'base verbs' like: *bring*, *come*, *sit*, *break* and another small word like *in*, *down*, *up*.: *He entered the room and sit down.*

He broke up a piece of bread and threw it to the dog.

Compare:

Preposition verbs Phrasal verbs

Verb+ preposition + noun verb + particle+ noun

She **ran down** the roadShe **threw down** the paper

He **sat on** the chair He **put on** his coat

verb+ preposition + pronoun verb + pronoun + particle

She **ran down** it Shethrew it **down**

He **sat on** it He **put** it **on**

III. Interjections

There are hundreds, of interjections in the English language. Most are designed to express strong emotions, such as love, hate, surprise, happiness, anger, enthusiasm, hatred, dullness, confusion or bliss. Some interjections can express either a mild emotion, or can be expressions, such as “Excuse me.”

VI. Conjunctions

Conjunctions are the words that connect sentences, clauses, phrases, or words, and sometimes paragraphs. *Coordinate conjunctions* (and, but, or, however, nevertheless, neither ... nor) join independent clauses, or parts of a sentence; *subordinate conjunctions* introduce subordinate clauses (where, when, after, while, because, if, unless, since, whether). Let us quickly revise the various kinds of conjunctions with the help of the following examples:

Co-ordinate Conjunctions (joins equal clauses/phrases/words):

- The movie is long and boring.
- The story is short but it has a great message to convey.

Subordinate Conjunctions (joins unequal clauses):

- I will do whatever my mentor guides me to do.
- Charlotte will not go to bed unless we read her a story.

Correlative Conjunctions (used in pairs)

- I wish I was as popular as they are. (as-as combination)
- Neither Evelyn nor Hailey knows what was in the surprise gift package. (neither-nor combination)

Conjunctive Adverb (used as a conjunction as well as an adverb):

- Please bring me the ingredients for this recipe. In the meantime, I will prepare the other dish.
- She did not even try to find out her lost wallet. Eventually, it was found by her caretaker in the living area; however, the latter returned it.

Consolidation. Put right variant of conjunction.

1. I like chicken ____ not fish.

A. And B. Since C. But D. For E. Or

2. ____ it rains on Sunday, I will not be able to drive.

A. And B. Where C. Either D. If E. How

3. I like both dogs _____ cats.

A. Also B. But C. And D. If E. Until

4. The items are on sale in the local store ____ not online.

A. But B. And C. Though D. Or E. Nor

5. Neither my mother ____ my father will be able to attend the party on Sunday.

A. Or B. But not C. And D. Nor E. But also

6. Carrie didn't know whether her bike would be fixed ____ if she would have to walk.

A. But B. And C. Nor D. Or E. Either (D) Carrie didn't know whether her bike would be fixed or if she would have to walk. The situation described here is one in which one thing or the other will happen. The coordinating conjunction or must be used.

7. Luke was late to the party _____ his car broke down on the highway.

A. If B. Because C. While D. Although E. Where