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| 3 | Prepositional Phrases 2 | SIEG 7.2 – 7.3 (pp. 128-136) | exercises 5, 7 & 10  worksheet (subordination) |

5.

For each of the following words, decide whether it is a preposition or an

adjective, and give arguments to support your view:

TESTS (notice that rarely do all tests work 100%)

- Prepositions tend to licence NP complements, never do.

- Prepositions tend to be non-gradable and to accept a limited range of modifiers, adjectives are gradable and accept a wide range of modifiers.

- Prepostions can head adjuncts that are not related to a predicand (usually the subject of the main clause), adjectives only head adjuncts that are related to a predicand.

- prepositions usually cannot be complement of the verb become while adjectives can.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| about | - A documentary about the pacific ocean (licences NP comp)  - \*This documentary is the most about the pacific ocean. (non-gradable)  - About the pacific ocean, I suggest you watch a documentary (with this sense→ regarding the pacific ocean, ….) (not related to predicand)  - \* The topic became about the pacific ocean. | preposition |
| ahead | - \* An artist ahead his time (cp. ahead of his time)  - She is more ahead of her time than me; but \*she is the most ahead  - ahead of time, there were no reasons to worry.  - \*the home team became ahead. | preposition |
| aloof | - \*aloof the attitude (does not licences NP complement)  - Mary is more aloof than her sisters; she is the most aloof of all  - \*Aloof in her attitude, there is no fun in being around her.  Aloof in her attitude, she did not cause a positive impression.  (adjunct related to predicand only )  - Mary became aloof | adjective |
| aloft | - \*Aloft the airplane (does not license NP complement)  - \*The airplane is more aloft than the helicopter  - ??Aloft, there were particles in the air. but Aloft the particles polluted the air.  - \*The airplane became aloft | preposition |
| around | - Around the lake  - \*The neighborhood is more around the lake than the park is  - \*not around, the news went unheard.  Not around, Mary was not informed of the news  (adjunct related to predicand only – adjectival behaviour)  - \*The dogs became around the house | prepositi |

7.

Which of the following prepositions can occur in declarative main clauses either

with or without an NP complement? Give examples to illustrate both uses, noting

those which occur without an NP comple­ment only in a restricted subset of their

uses/meanings:

NOTE #1. ABOUT PREPOSITIONS WITHOUT COMPLEMENTS:

prepositions stranded inside a relative clause (*the book that I asked you for* \_\_) and other stranded prepositions (w*hat did you asked her for?*) do not count as prepositions without complement!!!

NOTE #2. their answers will be different from mine of course!

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|  | with NP complement | no NP complement |
| against | Bob made a bet against [the odds] | \* |
| between | The prize was divided between [the players] | (It was a good couple of months). But we had some difficult weeks in between. |
| despite | Despite [my best efforts], Mary was not impressed with the meal I cooked. | \* |
| inside | There is some money inside [that box]. | We never let the cats sleep inside. |
| opposite | Bob played sat opposite Mary. | \* |
| throughout | Mary called Bob throughout the day to see how he was doing. | It was a long hearing with interruptions throughout. |
| to | Bob walked to the house. | \* |
| underneath | The cat was hiding underneath the blanket. | The living room has a carpet with a wooden floor underneath. |
| until | Mary stayed until the last minute. | \* |
| within | The ranch was within a mile of the town. | To find peace, you must search within. |

10.

Classify the following words as adverbs or prepositions, basing your answers on the

criteria discussed in Ch. 7 and citing the relevant evidence:

TESTS:

- Prepositions can be dependents of nouns; adverbs can’t

- Prepositions can be complement of BE; adverbs can’t

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| --- | --- | --- |
| ahead | The road ahead is long. (dependent of noun)  We are ahead of the competition. (complement of be) | prepostition |
| always | \* (The dog always) wants to play.  \* The dog is always. | adverb |
| indoors | The pool indoors will require a lot of work to maintain.  Because of the rain, Mary is indoors. | preposition |
| often | \*(The dog often) wants to play  \*The rain is often | adverb |
| overseas | The overseas student arrives tomorrow.  Mary is not in town, she is overseas. | preposition |