



Printer Fabulous!

The Preposition

Recognize a *preposition* when you see one.

Prepositions are the words that indicate location. Usually, prepositions show this location in the physical world. Check out the three examples below:



The puppy The puppy is

is **on** the floor. **in** the trash can. The puppy is **beside** the phone.

On, **in**, and **beside** are all prepositions. They are showing *where* the puppy is. Prepositions can also show location in *time*. Read the next three examples:

At midnight, Jill craved mashed potatoes with grape jelly.

In the spring, I always vow to plant tomatoes but end up buying them at the supermarket.

During the marathon, Iggy's legs complained with sharp pains shooting up his thighs.

At midnight, **in the spring**, and **during the marathon** all show location in time.

Because there are so many possible locations, there are quite a few prepositions. Below is the complete list.

about	concerning	
above	despite	onto
according to	down	on top of
across	during	out
after	except	out of
against	except for	outside
along	excepting	over
along with	for	past
among	from	regarding
apart from	in	round
	in addition	since

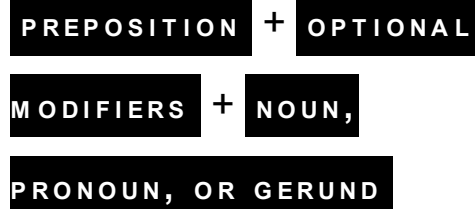
around	to	through
as	in back of	throughout
as for	in case of	till
at	in front of	to
because of	in place of	toward
before	inside	under
behind	in spite of	underneath
below	instead of	unlike
beneath	into	until
beside	like	up
between	near	upon
beyond	next	up to
but*	of	with
by	off	within
by means of	on	without

* **But** is very seldom a preposition. When it is used as a preposition, **but** means the same as **except** —**Everyone ate frog legs but Jamie. But** usually functions as a **coordinating conjunction**.

Understand how to form a prepositional phrase.

Prepositions generally introduce **prepositional phrases**.

Prepositional phrases look like this:



Here are some examples:

At school

At = preposition; *school*
= noun.

According to us

According to =
preposition; *us* =
pronoun.

By chewing

By = preposition;
chewing = gerund.

Under the stove

Under = preposition; *the*
= modifier; *stove* = noun.

In the crumb-filled,
rumpled sheets

In = preposition; *the*,
crumb-filled, *rumpled*
= modifiers; *sheets* =
noun.

**Realize that some prepositions
also function as subordinate
conjunctions.**

Some prepositions also function as
subordinate conjunctions.

These prepositions are *after*, *as*,
before, *since*, and *until*. A

subordinate conjunction will have both a **subject** and a **verb** following it, forming a **subordinate clause**.

Look at these examples:

After Sam and
Esmerelda kissed
goodnight

After = subordinate
conjunction; **Sam**,
Esmerelda = subjects;
kissed = verb.

As Jerome buckled on
the parachute

As = subordinate
conjunction; **Jerome** =
subject; **buckled** = verb.

Before I eat these frog
legs

Before = subordinate
conjunction; **I** = subject;
eat = verb.

Since we have enjoyed
the squid eyeball stew

Since = subordinate
conjunction; **we** = subject;
have enjoyed = verb.

Until your hiccups stop

Until = subordinate

conjunction; **hiccups** =
subject; **stop** = verb.

If you find a noun [with or without modifiers] following one of these five prepositions, then all you have is a prepositional phrase. Look at these examples:

After the killer calculus
test

After = preposition; **the**,
killer, **calculus** =
modifiers; **test** = noun.

As a good parent

As = preposition; **a**,
good = modifiers; **parent**
= noun.

Before dinner

Before = preposition;
dinner = noun.

Since the breakup

Since = preposition; **the**
= modifier; **breakup** =
noun.

Until midnight

Until = preposition;
midnight = noun.



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