

PREPOSITIONS

Close your eyes and visualize each of these sentences as they are read out loud.

The package under the tree is mine.

The package in the tree is mine.

The package near the tree is mine.

How are these three sentences different from each other? Yes, in each sentence the position of the package is different. It has moved to a different place.

Now visualize these sentences:

I will see you before lunch.

I will see you during lunch.

I will see you after lunch.

What changes? Right! The time when I will see you changes. It is at a different time.

These are the words that were changed in these sentences: *under, in, near, before, during, after*. These words are called prepositions, and that is the new part of speech we are going to learn.

HOW TO FIND A PREPOSITION:

First of all, remember to find the nouns, articles, adjectives, and pronouns before you do anything else. Then, looking among the words left over, find the prepositions. It's easier than you think! Almost all prepositions will fit into the following little sentence (it's very handy, so memorize it!).

"THE MOUSE GOES _____ THE BOX (OR BOXES)."

Take each preposition that was used in the sentences above, and put it in the blank of the "mouse-box" sentence. It works for every one of those prepositions except *during*, doesn't it? The "Mouse-Box" sentence will help you find most prepositions, but what about the ones that don't fit?

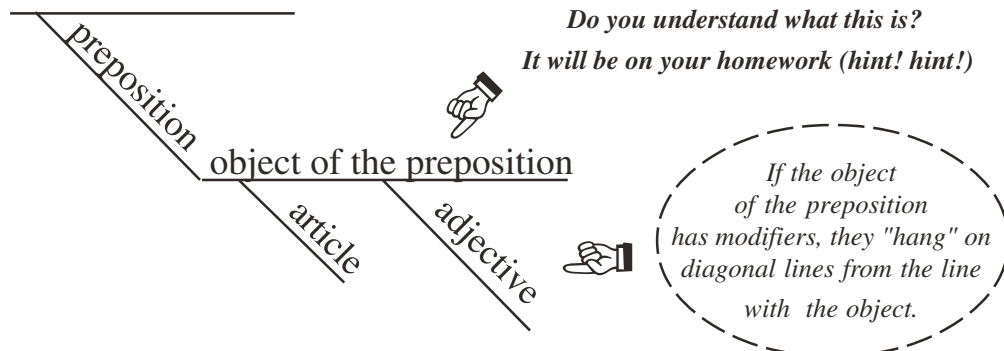
Some prepositions won't fit into the "mouse-box" sentence. There are nine very common ones, which may seem like a lot to remember. To help you with this, here's a little memory trick. Remember: you may not be able to remember them, **BUT AL DOES!**

- | | | |
|------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| B = but | A = as | D = during |
| U = until | L = like | O = of |
| T = than | | E = except |
| | | S = since |

PREPOSITIONAL PHRASES: A word may fit into the "mouse-box" sentence and look like a preposition, but **IT ISN'T A PREPOSITION UNLESS IT'S IN A PREPOSITIONAL PHRASE**. To find the prepositional phrase, first you find the word you think is a preposition. Then you say the preposition and ask, "What?" The answer you are looking for is a noun or pronoun that answers that question. That noun or pronoun is called the **OBJECT OF THE PREPOSITION**. Each prepositional phrase will begin with a preposition, and end with a noun or pronoun. If there are any words between the preposition and its object, they are modifiers (like articles & adjectives) for that object.

In the six sentences on page one, the prepositional phrases are "under the tree," "in the tree," "near the tree," "before lunch," "during lunch," and "after lunch." The objects of the prepositions are "tree" and "lunch."

DIAGRAMMING: Sentence diagramming is a tool we use to help us understand ideas which might be hard. We're going to start learning about diagramming by diagramming prepositional phrases. A diagrammed prepositional phrase looks like this:




PREPOSITIONAL PHRASES HAVE JUST ONE JOB TO DO: THEY ARE ALWAYS MODIFIERS.

NOTE: A few prepositions consist of more than one word. They are *because of*, *in spite of*, *according to*, *instead of*, and *out of*. If you find one of these prepositions, label it "pp" with "wings" (as you do with proper nouns of more than one word).

PREPOSITIONS: EXERCISE #1

NAME: _____

WHAT TO DO: Write *N* over the common nouns, *PN* over the proper nouns, *ART* over the articles, *ADJ* over the adjectives, *PP* over the prepositions, and put parentheses around the prepositional phrases. Then, on the back or on a separate sheet of paper, diagram the prepositional phrases in every sentence. Sentence one has been done for you as an example.

PP
N
PRO
PP
ART
N
 1. (On vacation) everybody (in the family) relaxes.


2. A vacationer can think about different things for a change

3. He can relax and renew himself on vacation.

4. Time spent on vacation is never a waste of time.

5. On warm summer days many bright solutions to problems have been dreamed up during a little snooze in a hammock.

All the underlined words in this exercise are doing the same job. After you get all the prepositional phrases diagramed, look at the notes for this unit. Write on the line below the name of this job.

PREPOSITIONS: EXERCISE #2

NAME: _____

WHAT TO DO: Write *N* over the common nouns, *PN* over the proper nouns, *ART* over the articles, *ADJ* over the adjectives, *PP* over the prepositions, and put parentheses around the prepositional phrases. Then, on the back or on a separate sheet of paper, diagram the prepositional phrases in every sentence.

1. Our family is going on a trip during spring vacation.
2. We are driving to the lake in our new camper.
3. Family vacations have been improved since the invention
of the camper.
4. Our camper has four beds in it and a little bathroom at the back.
5. Now our camping trips are fun for the whole family, thanks to our
camper!

A PREPOSITIONAL PHRASE BEGINS WITH A PREPOSITION AND ENDS**WITH A _____**

DIRECTIONS: *The underlined words in these sentences are doing one of two jobs. Choosing your answer from the jobs shown below, write what job each underlined word is doing.*

MODIFIER**OBJECT OF THE PREPOSITION**

<u>SENTENCE #</u>	<u>WORD</u>	<u>JOB</u>
1	trip	_____
2	new	_____
3	invention	_____
4	little	_____
5	camping	_____

PREPOSITIONS: EXERCISE #3

NAME: _____

WHAT TO DO: Write *N* over the common nouns, *PN* over the proper nouns, *ART* over the articles, *ADJ* over the adjectives, *PP* over the prepositions, and put parentheses around the prepositional phrases. Then, on the back or on a separate sheet of paper, diagram the prepositional phrases in every sentence.

1. On my seventh birthday my mom and dad gave me a wonderful present.
2. It was a trip to Boston, Massachusetts!
3. On our first day we went on a walking tour on the Freedom Trail.
4. My favorite place on the Freedom Trail was the small wooden house of Paul Revere.
5. Paul Revere was the American hero who rode through the night so he could warn the people of the arrival of the British soldiers.

A PRONOUN IS A WORD THAT _____

ARTICLES & ADJECTIVES DO THE JOB OF _____

DIRECTIONS: *The underlined words in these sentences are doing one of two jobs. Choosing your answer from the jobs shown below, write what job each underlined word is doing.*

MODIFIER**OBJECT OF THE PREPOSITION**

<u>SENTENCE #</u>	<u>WORD</u>	<u>JOB</u>
1	seventh	_____
2	Boston, Massachusetts	_____
3	walking	_____
4	wooden	_____
5	night	_____

PLAYING WITH WORDS: UNIT #4

Student Name: _____

Below are three prepositional phrases, and then a sentence. Choose which prepositional phrase goes into each space. In the spaces provided below, write the prepositional phrase that you think fits.

of my desk

on the corner

for a minute

I leaned my elbow _____
Preposition phrase #1

_____ and rested my eyes
Preposition phrase #2

_____.
Preposition phrase #3

Now you're going to see a bunch of prepositional phrases. On a separate sheet of paper, write a paragraph or two using as many of these prepositional phrases as you can. Remember: when writing a paragraph, all the sentences in it have to go together. If you change the place or the time something is happening in, you need to start a new paragraph. Any paragraph you write should be at least three sentences long. You may add other prepositional phrases if you think you need them.

to the beach

in the truck

of his tail

for her toys

from her dad

with lunch

on the back seat

in the sky

of the ocean

on the sand

in her bucket

If you want to find out how well you did on this exercise, look at "How did I do?" on the other side of this page.

PLAYING WITH WORDS: UNIT #4

How did I do?

Student Name: _____

1. The sentence should say, " I leaned my elbow on the corner of my desk and rested my eyes for a minute." If you got all the prepositional phrases in the right place, you get 3 points. If any of your prepositional phrases are in the wrong place, you get 1 point.

2. Does your paragraph have at least 3 sentences? If so, you get 1 point.

3. Does your paragraph make sense? If so, you get 1 point.

4. If you used all 11 prepositional phrases, you get 5 points.
 If you used 8 or 9 prepositional phrases, you get 4 points.
 If you used 6 or 7 prepositional phrases, you get 3 points.
 If you used 4 or 5 prepositional phrases, you get 2 points.
 If you used 2 or 3 prepositional phrases, you get 1 point.
 If you only used one, you get zero.

Add it all up into your GRAND TOTAL:

=====

If you got **10** points, you're **ABSOLUTELY AMAZING!**

If you got **9** points, you're **WONDERFUL!**

If you got **8** points, you're **GREAT!**

If you got **7** points, you're **DOING A GOOD JOB.**

If you got **6** points, you're **MAKING A GOOD EFFORT.**

TEST: PREPOSITIONS

NAME: _____

POINTS EARNED: _____ out of 115 LEVEL: _____

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1. Ask most adults about their favorite memories of their childhood, and they will probably tell you about a family vacation.
2. Once on a rainy day during vacation my brother won our family's money in a game of Tripoley.
3. Groans of agony from Dad and crows of joy from my brother came with every hand of the cards.
4. After the game the family, on bended knee, begged my brother for money.
5. The good part of the whole thing was that we were only playing with imaginary money!

SHORT ANSWER:

1. Pronouns are words that

_____.

2. Adjectives are words that

_____.

DIRECTIONS: *The underlined words in these sentences are doing one of two jobs. Choosing your answer from the jobs shown below, write what job each underlined word is doing.*

MODIFIER		OBJECT OF THE PREPOSITION
<u>SENTENCE #</u>	<u>WORD</u>	<u>JOB</u>
1	their	_____
2	vacation	_____
3	every	_____
4	bended	_____
5	thing	_____

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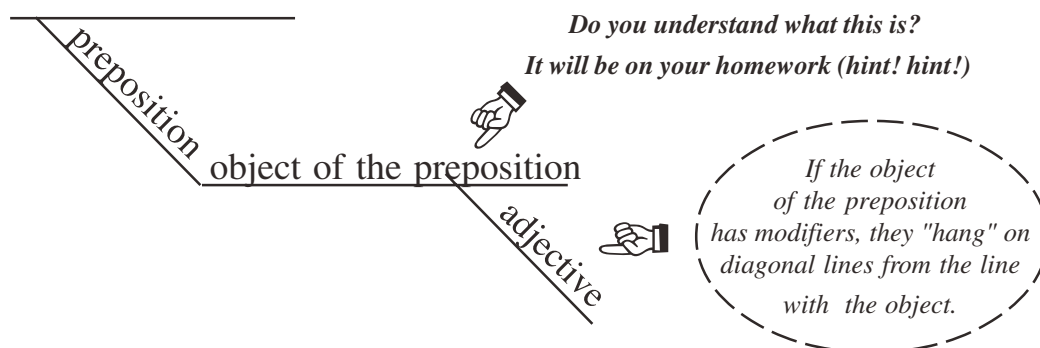
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PREPOSITIONS: EXERCISE #1

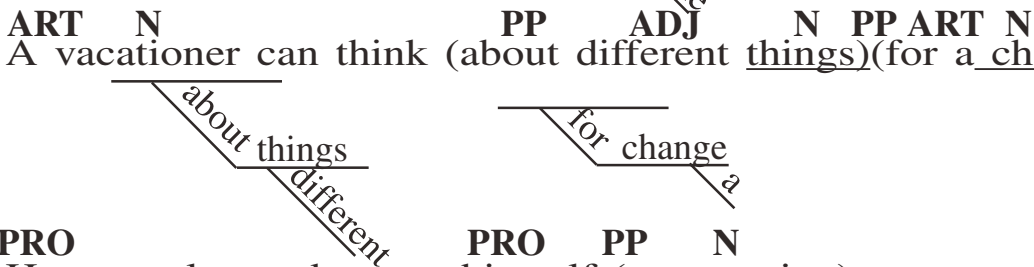
NAME: _____

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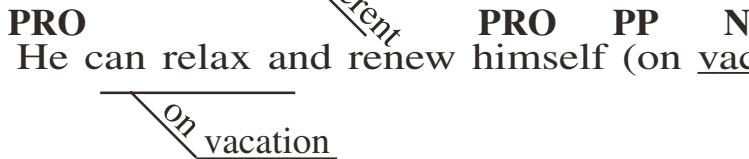
1. (On vacation) everybody (in the family) relaxes.



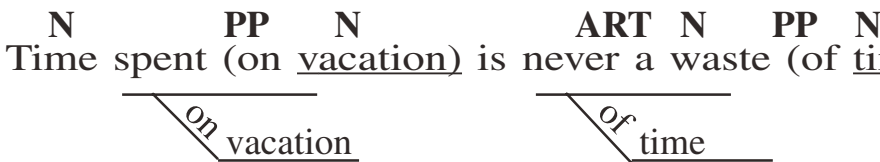
2. A vacationer can think (about different things)(for a change).



3. He can relax and renew himself (on vacation).

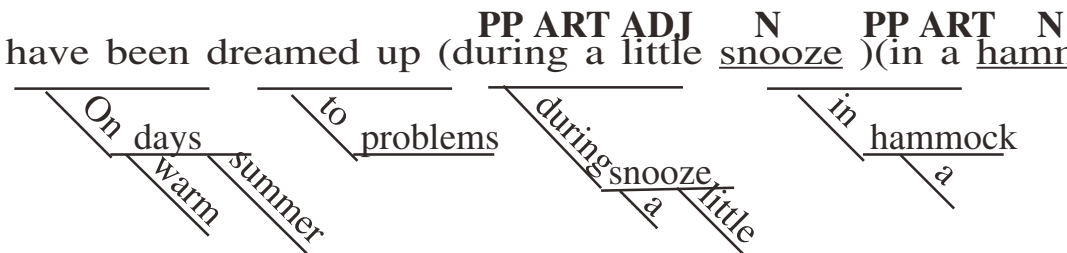


4. Time spent (on vacation) is never a waste (of time).



5. (On warm summer days) many bright solutions (to problems)

have been dreamed up (during a little snooze)(in a hammock).



All the underlined words in this exercise are doing the same job. After you get all the prepositional phrases diagramed, look at the notes for this unit. Write on the line below the name of this job.

_____ object of the preposition _____

PREPOSITIONS: EXERCISE #2

NAME: _____

WHAT TO DO: Write *N* over the common nouns, *PN* over the proper nouns, *ART* over the articles, *ADJ* over the adjectives, *PP* over the prepositions, and put parentheses around the prepositional phrases. Then, on the back or on a separate sheet of paper, diagram the prepositional phrases in every sentence.

1. **ADJ** **N** **PP** **ART** **N** **PP** **ADJ** **N**
 Our family is going (on a trip)(during spring vacation).

(diagram keys are on the back)

2. **PRO** **PP** **ART** **N** **PP** **ADJ** **ADJ** **N**
 We are driving (to the lake)(in our new camper).

3. **ADJ** **N** **PP** **ART** **N**
 Family vacations have been improved(since the invention)
 PP **ART** **N**
 (of the camper).

4. **ADJ** **N** **ADJ** **N** **PP** **PRO** **ART** **ADJ** **N** **PP** **ART** **N**
 Our camper has four beds (in it) and a little bathroom(at the back).

5. **ADJ** **ADJ** **N** **PP** **ART** **ADJ** **N**
 Now our camping trips are fun (for the whole family), thanks
 PP **ADJ** **N**
 (to our camper)!

A PREPOSITIONAL PHRASE BEGINS WITH A PREPOSITION AND ENDS

WITH A _____ *noun or pronoun.*

DIRECTIONS: The underlined words in these sentences are doing one of two jobs. Choosing your answer from the jobs shown below, write what job each underlined word is doing.

<u>SENTENCE #</u>	<u>WORD</u>	<u>JOB</u>
1	trip	<u>object of the preposition</u>
2	new	<u>modifier</u>
3	invention	<u>object of the preposition</u>
4	little	<u>modifier</u>
5	camping	<u>modifier</u>

1. on trip a during vacation spring

2. to lake the in camper our new

3. since invention the of camper the

4. in it at back the

5. for family the whole to camper our

PREPOSITIONS: EXERCISE #3

NAME: _____

WHAT TO DO: Write *N* over the common nouns, *PN* over the proper nouns, *ART* over the articles, *ADJ* over the adjectives, *PP* over the prepositions, and put parentheses around the prepositional phrases. Then, on the back or on a separate sheet of paper, diagram the prepositional phrases in every sentence.

1. **PP ADJ ADJ N ADJ N N PRO ART ADJ**
 (On my seventh birthday) my mom and dad gave me a wonderful
 N
 present.

2. **PRO ART N PP _____ PN _____**
 It was a trip (to Boston, Massachusetts)!

3. **PP ADJ ADJ N PRO PP ART ADJ N PP ART**
 (On our first day) we went (on a walking tour)(on the
 PN _____
 Freedom Trail).

4. **ADJ ADJ N PP ART _____ PN _____ ART ADJ ADJ**
 My favorite place (on the Freedom Trail) was the small wooden
 N PP _____ PN _____
 house (of Paul Revere).

5. **_____ PN _____ ART ADJ N PRO PP ART N**
 Paul Revere was the American hero who rode (through the night)
 PRO ART N PP ART N PP ART ADJ
 so he could warn the people (of the arrival)(of the British
 N
 soldiers).

A PRONOUN IS A WORD THAT _____ *takes the place of a noun.*

ARTICLES & ADJECTIVES DO THE JOB OF _____ *modifier.*

DIRECTIONS: *The underlined words in these sentences are doing one of two jobs. Choosing your answer from the jobs shown below, write white job each underlined word is doing.*

MODIFIER

OBJECT OF THE PREPOSITION

<u>SENTENCE #</u>	<u>WORD</u>	<u>JOB</u>
1	seventh	<u>modifier</u>
2	Boston, Massachusetts	<u>object of the preposition</u>
3	walking	<u>modifier</u>
4	wooden	<u>modifier</u>
5	night	<u>object of the preposition</u>

1. On birthday
 my seventh

2. to Boston, MA

3. On day on tour on Freedom Trail
 our first a walking the

4. on Freedom Trail of Paul Revere
 the

5. through night of arrival of soldiers
 the the the British

TEST: PREPOSITIONS

NAME: _____

POINTS EARNED: _____ out of 115 LEVEL: _____

WHAT TO DO: Write *N* over the common nouns, *PN* over the proper nouns, *ART* over the articles, *ADJ* over the adjectives, *PP* over the prepositions, and put parentheses around the prepositional phrases. Then, on the back or on a separate sheet of paper, diagram the prepositional phrases in every sentence.

— 1. Ask most adults(about their favorite memories)(of their childhood),
18
ADJ N PP ADJ ADJ N PP ADJ N
and they will probably tell you(about a family vacation).
PRO PRO PP ART ADJ N

— 2. Once (on a rainy day)(during vacation) my brother won our family's
20
PP ART ADJ N PP N ADJ N ADJ ART
money (in a game)(of Tripoli).
N PP ART N PP PN

— 3. Groans (of agony)(from Dad) and crows (of joy)(from my brother)
23
N PP N PP PN N PP N PP ADJ N
came (with every hand)(of the cards).
PP ADJ N PP ART N

— 4. (After the game) the family (on bended knee) begged my brother
15
PP ART N ART N PP ADJ N ADJ N
(for money).
PP N

— 5. The good part (of the whole thing) was that we were only playing
14
ART ADJ N PP ART ADJ N PRO PRO
(with imaginary money)!
PP ADJ N
===
90

SHORT ANSWER:

1. Pronouns are words that

take the place of nouns.

2. Adjectives are words that

modify nouns or pronouns.

(over)

DIRECTIONS: The underlined words in these sentences are doing one of two jobs. Choosing your answer from the jobs shown below, write what job each underlined word is doing.

MODIFIER

OBJECT OF THE PREPOSITION

SENTENCE #	WORD	JOB
1	their	<u>modifier</u>
2	vacation	<u>object of the preposition</u>
3	every	<u>modifier</u>
4	bended	<u>modifier</u>
5	thing	<u>object of the preposition</u>

1, 3
 about memories of childhood about vacation
 their favorite their a family

2, 4
 on day during vacation in game of Tripoley
 a rainy a

3, 6
 of agony from Dad of joy from brother with hand of cards
 my every the

4, 3
 After game on knee for money
 the bended

5, 2
 of thing with money
 the whole imaginary

Score Range	Result
115 - 103	= Mastery
102 - 92	= Superiority
91 - 80	= Competency
79 - 69	= Probationary
68 and below	= Repeat