

# PREPOSITIONAL PHRASES

# PS-8

**Prepositions are words that convey relationships, often space and time, between the noun, or pronoun, following it and other words in the sentence.** Prepositions are able to function in any part of the sentence: the beginning, end, or middle.

Prepositional Phrases indicate:

How – By what means or way.

Where – Direction and location.

When – Time or Length.

Refer to the table below for commonly used prepositions.

## Common Prepositions

about	before	except for	near	through
above	behind	Excepting	next	throughout
according to	below	for	of	till
across	beneath	From	off	to
after	beside	In	on	toward
against	between	in addition to	onto	under
along	beyond	in back of	on top of	underneath
along with	but	in case of	out	unlike
among	by	in front of	out of	unlike
apart from	by means of	in place of	outside	up
around	concerning	Inside	over	upon
as	despite	in spite of	past	up to
as for	down	instead of	regarding	with
at	during	Into	round	within
because of	except	Like	since	without

**A prepositional phrase is a group of words, not containing a subject or a predicate, beginning with a preposition.** It is a preposition with its subject and modifier included.

Below are examples of prepositional phrases:

Because of the weather

Instead of the chair

In addition to some paper

Inside the house

Notice a prepositional phrase cannot stand alone as a sentence; therefore, it is a sentence fragment.

## PREPOSITIONAL PHRASES

PS-8

The following examples can be used in the following context to make it a complete sentence.

Because of the weather, the football game was cancelled.

I will sit on the floor instead of the chair.

I need to get some pencils in addition to the paper.

Inside the house is an old antique dining room table.

Time and Place:

**Common prepositions used to describe time and place are: in, on, and at.**

Examples of this are:

In 1995 – In 1995, I graduated high school.

In a few months – I will be turning thirty in a few months.

On Friday – On Friday, there will be an exam in English class.

On my birthday – I got a teddy bear on my birthday.

At night fall – There will be fireworks at night fall.

At your house – I will meet you at your house.

If you have not noticed by now, **prepositional phrases can be used in any part of the sentence.**

After going to class, I had to head to work. (Beginning)

I like to eat vegetables except for lettuce. (End)

The class, along with Jim, went to visit the Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens. (Middle)

**\*If the prepositional phrase is used in the beginning of the sentence, you should set it off by a comma.** If the prepositional phrase is a non-restrictive appositive, it also has to be set off by a comma. If you are not familiar with comma rules, see a tutor or refer to the comma handout.

Example:

Before running to the store, I had to walk the dog.

I, before running to the store, had to walk the dog. (non-restrictive appositive)

I went into the basement to get some wine.

Let's practice!

Refer to the back for some examples.

## PREPOSITIONAL PHRASES

PS-8

Exercise 1:

Underline the prepositional phrases and circle the preposition in the following sentences.  
Correct any punctuation errors.

1. On the table underneath the centerpiece is a small wooden spoon.
2. I ran from the kitchen to take the cake out of the oven.

Exercise 2:

Write a sentence using the following preposition(s). Note your punctuation!

1. Between - \_\_\_\_\_
2. Under - \_\_\_\_\_
3. Through - \_\_\_\_\_
4. Concerning - \_\_\_\_\_
5. After - \_\_\_\_\_

### **Answers to Exercise 1:**

1. **on the table**  
**underneath the centerpiece**
2. **from the kitchen**  
**of the oven**