Prepositions

A preposition connects a noun or a pronoun with other parts of a sentence. It usually indicates direction, location or time.

eg. The girl on the horse raced by.
— "on" (the preposition) connects the girl and the horse

Common prepositions

- about
- before
- down
- of
- toward
- above
- below
- during
- off
- under
- across
- beneath
- for
- on
- until
- after
- beside
- from
- onto
- up
- against
- between
- in
- over
- upon
- along
- beyond
- inside
- since
- with
- among
- by
- into
- through
- within
- around
- concerning
- like
- throughout
- without
- at
- despite
- near
- to

Prepositions that contain more than one word

- according to
- by way of
- in spite of
- ahead of
- contrary to
- in view of
- apart from
- due to
- instead of
- as for
- in addition to
- by means of
- as well as
- in case of
- out of
- because of
- in place of

Prepositions of time

1. One point in time

- on (use with days, but it can sometime be left out in informal writing.)
- at (use with noon, night, midnight, or with the time of day)
- in (use with other parts of the day, with months, with years, with seasons)
2. **Extended time**

since, for (sometimes left out in informal writing when there’s a definite quantity),
by, from...to, from...until, during, (within).

**Prepositional phrases**

A **prepositional phrase** occurs when a preposition is followed by a noun, with or without an article or a possessive pronoun in between.

Prepositional phrases can have three functions:

1. adjectival
2. adverbial
3. nominal

**Adjectival Prepositional Phrases**

An **adjectival prepositional phrase** functions as an adjective. It appears after the noun it modifies.

e.g. The most beautiful building on our campus has lots of natural light.

**Adverbial Prepositional Phrases**

An **adverbial propositional phrase** functions as an adverb. It has three possible positions in a sentence:

1. initial - In spite of her handicap, the blind girl did well in school.
2. mid - The blind girl, in spite of her handicap, did well in school.
3. final - The blind girl did well in school in spite of her handicap.

**Nominal Prepositional Phrases**

A **nominal prepositional phrase** functions as a noun. Like a noun, it can be the subject of a sentence (1), the object of the verb (2), or the subject complement (3). Nominal phrases can appear on either side of a verb.

1. His **failure to commit** cost him the loss of a great relationship.
2. His failure to commit cost him **the loss of a great relationship**.
3. She is **the top student in the course**.