PREPOSITIONS

- A PREPOSITIONAL PHRASE is a group of words that begins with a PREPOSITION and ends with the noun or pronoun OBJECT of the preposition; the preposition shows the relationship between the preposition's object and the rest of the sentence (for example, time, place, direction, condition, and so on.
- Prepositions are ALWAYS in prepositional phrases.
- To find the prepositional phrase, as yourself: "*preposition, what?"* The *what* is the end of the phrase.
- Unlike nouns, verbs, and modifiers, PREPOSITIONS never change form.
- When a prepositional phrase comes at the beginning of a sentence, it requires a comma.
- Prepositional phrases NEVER contain a subject or a verb.

Examples: *Juan is going **to the movies**.* (*"to - what?" to the movies* shows relationship of place)
*My lunch hour lasts **until 2 p.m.*** (*"until - what?" until 2 p.m.* shows relationship of time)
***Despite the rain**, they finished the game.* (*"despite - what?" despite the rain* shows relationship of condition)

COMMONLY USED PREPOSITIONS AND PHRASAL PREPOSITIONS

aboard
about
above
according to
across
after [can be a sub. conj.]
against
ahead of
along / alongside
along with
amid /amidst
among
apart from
around
as [can be a sub. conj.]
as for / as of / as to
aside from
at

because of
before
behind

below

beneath
beside / besides
between
beyond
but [meaning *except*]
by / by means of

concerning
contrary to

despite
down
due to
during

except / except for

for
from

in / inside / inside of
in addition to
in case of / in favor of

in front of / in place of

in regard to / in spite of
instead of / in view of
into

like [can be a verb or subord. conj]

near
next to

of
off
on / onto
on account of /on behalf of
out / out of
outside
over
owing to

past
pending
per

regarding
regardless of

since [can be a subord. conj.]

through / throughout
till
to [also an infinitive]
toward

under / underneath
until
up / upon / up to

via

with / within / without
with reference to
with regard to
with respect to
with the exception of

REMEMBER:

✓ If the word does not have an object, it is not a preposition.
*He fell **down** and broke his arm.* [since you cannot answer *"down what?," down* here is not a prep. but an adverb]
*He fell **down the stairs** and broke his arm.* [*"down what?" down the stairs* is a prep. phrase]

✓ *After, like,* and *since* can also be subordinating conjunctions if they have a subject and verb after them [remember - prepositional phrases NEVER contain a verb].
***After lunch,** we went to the movies.*
***After** **we** (subj) **had** (verb) lunch, we went to the movies.*