

## PREPOSITIONS - REVIEW

### PREPOSITIONS

A **preposition** is a connecting word that **joins a noun or pronoun** to the rest of the sentence to indicate a relationship such as **time, place, direction**, or some other relationship.

time: *Let's meet **after class**.* [*after class* tells the **time** to meet]

place: *Let's meet **in the cafeteria**.* [*in the cafeteria* tells **where** to meet]

direction: *Walk **toward the light**.* [*toward the light* tells in which **direction** to walk]

### PREPOSITIONAL PHRASES

A preposition never stands alone but is always in a prepositional phrase that **begins with the preposition** [see separate chart] and **ends with the noun or pronoun**, which is the object of the preposition. To find the end of the prepositional phrase, find the preposition and then ask yourself “*preposition what?*” The *what* is the object of the preposition and therefore the end of the prepositional phrase.

***After class**, let's go **to the library**.* [*after class* // *to what?* *to the library*]

*I lived **in Texas** two years before I moved **to Miami**.* [*in what?* *in Texas* // *to what?* *to Miami*]

When the **object of a preposition is a pronoun**, it must be in the object form: **me, him, her, us, them, whom**

*Give the book **to her**.* // *I spoke **to them** yesterday.* // ***For whom** is that package?*

A prepositional phrase **NEVER** contains a SUBJECT or VERB.

*Two **of my friends** moved to Gainesville.* [since *friends* is in a prepositional phrase, it cannot be the subject of the sentence]

### PREPOSITIONS that can be OTHER PARTS OF SPEECH

Some prepositions can be other parts of speech, depending on how they are used in a sentence.

Remember that a preposition is always in a prepositional phrase that ends with a noun or pronoun object.

*You look **like your brother**.* [*like your brother* is a preposition because it has an object *brother*]

*I **like your brother**.* [*like* in this sentence is the action, so it is a verb]

*The children ran **around the yard**.* [*around the yard* is a preposition because it has an object *yard*]

*The children ran **around** before going inside.* [*around* is not a prep. since it does not have an object; it is an adverb]

### TO is a PREPOSITION or an INFINITIVE

*To* is a **preposition** when it has a noun or pronoun object.

*We are going **to the movies** tonight.* [*to what?* *to* is a preposition since it has a noun object *movies*]

*To* is an **infinitive** when it is followed by a verb.

*They want **to go** with us.* [*to go* is an infinitive since *go* is a verb]

In either case, a **to** phrase will **never** contain the subject or be part of the verb of a sentence.

### COMMA RULES

Use a comma after introductory **prepositional phrases** or **infinitives**.

*To tell the truth, I don't remember you.* [infinitive phrase in front of the sentence]

*Between you and me, I did not like her new hairstyle.* [prepositional phrase in front of the sentence]

**However**, a prepositional phrase or infinitive **within or at the end of a sentence does NOT use a comma**.

*Did you remember **to mail** the letters?* [infinitive phrase within a sentence needs no comma]

\_\_\_\_\_ *Tell me **about the movie**.* [prepositional phrase within a sentence needs no comma]

## PRACTICE

Put PARENTHESES ( ) around prepositional phrases and BRACKETS [ ] around infinitives.

1. The crowd waited at the airport in the rain for the arrival of the team.
2. Your secret is safe with me.
3. I asked him not to call me after 11 p.m. on week nights.
4. Because of financial hardship, she moved to be closer to her family.
5. After their last trip, my neighbors vowed never to drive across country again.
6. The cherry blossom trees bloom during the spring in Washington, D.C.
7. Throughout the trial, Jonathan's fiancée sat behind him in the courtroom.

Above the underlined word, tell if it is a PREPOSITION (prep), INFINITIVE (inf), or OTHER.

8. There was a parade for the Miami Heat after they won the national championship.
9. I tried to watch the game, but my cable was out because of the storm.
10. I like to go to South Beach on the weekends.
11. I have not seen you since last July.
12. Have you moved since I saw you last time?
13. We were driving toward the entrance when we saw the gate close.

Fill in the appropriate PREPOSITION for the sentence.

14. What did you do \_\_\_\_\_ your stay in Europe?
15. Are they showing the game \_\_\_\_\_ TV?
16. My wallet is not \_\_\_\_\_ my purse.
17. I saw you waiting \_\_\_\_\_ the bus stop.
18. My luggage did not get loaded \_\_\_\_\_ the plane.
19. I drove \_\_\_\_\_ your house yesterday, but you were not home.
20. Charles Schultz was the creator \_\_\_\_\_ of the Peanuts comic strips.

Insert COMMAS in the following sentences; put a C next to any that do not need any commas.

21. In addition to us twenty other people will be on the tour through France.
22. The players went over video of their plays after the game.
23. After the game the players went over video of their plays.
24. Homeowners can learn to control weeds without using pesticides or sprays.
25. In addition to damage from the wind and rain the whole island was without power for three days.
26. A verb is never found inside a prepositional phrase.