

PREPOSITIONS

- ▶ PREPOSITIONS connect a NOUN or PRONOUN to another word in the sentence, often showing a relationship of time or place (others show relationship of addition, comparison, condition, possession, and so on)
- ▶ Unlike nouns, verbs, and modifiers, PREPOSITIONS never change form.
- ▶ PREPOSITIONS are always in PHRASES beginning with the preposition and ending with the object of the preposition. [to find the phrase, ask yourself: “preposition what?” The *what* is the end of the phrase]
- ▶ PREPOSITIONAL PHRASES, like adjectives and adverbs, act as modifiers.
- ▶ 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	beyond	out / out of
about	but [meaning <i>except</i>]	outside
above	by / by means of	over
according to	concerning	owing to
across	contrary to	past
after [also a sub. conj.]	despite	pending
against	down	per
ahead of	due to	regarding
along / alongside	during	regardless of
along with	except / except for	since [also a sub. conj.]
amid / amidst	for	through / throughout
among	from	till
apart from	in / inside	to [also an infinitive]
around	instead / instead of	toward
as [can be a sub. conj.]	into	under / underneath
aside from	like [also a verb or sub. conj.]	until
at	near	up / upon / up to
because (of)	next to	via
before	of	with / within / without
behind	off	
below	on / onto	
beneath		
beside / besides		
between		

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* are not prepositions, but subordinating conjunctions if they have a subject and verb after them.
***After lunch**, we went to the movies.* [*after* has an object, so it is a preposition in this sentence]
***After we had** lunch, we went to the movies.* [*after* has a subject and verb after it, so it is not a preposition in this sentence]