

## *Prepositions*

**I- Definition:** A *preposition* is a word that shows the relationship between a noun or pronoun and some other word in the sentence.

*Examples:*

- The house **at** the corner is mine.
- The house **near** the corner is mine.
- The house **around** the corner is mine.

Commonly used prepositions are the following: *about, above, across, after, against, along, among, around, at, before, behind, below, beside, between, beyond, but* (meaning except), *by, concerning, down, during, except, for, from, in, inside, into, like, near, of, off, on, outside, over, past, since, through, to, towards, under, until, up, with, without*

**II- Compound Prepositions:** They consist of more than one word. Commonly used compound prepositions are the following: *according to, as well as, in addition to, in front of, in place of, in spite of, prior to.*

### **III- Prepositional Phrases**

1. Definition: A preposition is usually followed by a noun or pronoun called the *object of the preposition*. Together the preposition, the object, and the modifiers of that object form a *prepositional phrase*.

*Example:*

- The aircraft tracking station is **on the next hill**. (*The prepositional phrase on the next hill consists of the preposition on, the modifiers the and next, and the object hill.*)

A prepositional phrase may have more than one object. Such an object is called a compound object.

*Example:*

- Flights for Los Angeles leave **in the afternoon and evening**. (*in is the preposition, afternoon and evening are the objects.*)

2. Functions:

**a.** A prepositional phrase functions as an *adjective* if it modifies a noun or pronoun.

*Example:*

- I prefer the airline **with the big silver jets**. (*With the big silver jets tells which airline.*)

**b.** A prepositional phrase functions as an *adverb* if it modifies a verb, an adjective, or an adverb.

*Example:*

- You can buy your tickets **at the airport**. (*At the airport tells where you can buy your tickets.*)

Many of the prepositions function as other parts of speech when they have no objects. Every preposition must have an object.

*Examples:*

- **Preposition:** The plane moved **near** the gateway.
- **Adverb:** The time is drawing **near**.
- **Adjective:** Supersonic jet travel may become common in the **near** future.