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 abject.

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.

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