

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**.

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- **Adjective:** *Supersonic jet travel may become common in the **near** future.*

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