

# Prepositions

## WHAT IS A PREPOSITION?

A preposition introduces a noun or pronoun, linking it to other words in the sentence.

## USING PREPOSITIONS

Prepositions express several different kinds of information such as:

relation to time (*at* o'clock, will be gone *until* Thursday)

place (*in the ocean*, thrown *over* the roof, *underneath* the bed, *near* the ocean)

association (she went *with* Jenna)

purpose (she went *for* me)

to introduce objects of verbs (looked *at* me; looked *in* the book; laughed *at*;  
dream *of*)

## Commonly Used Prepositions

About	Between	Near	Since	Above
Beyond	Next	Than	Across	But
Of	Through	After	By	Off
To	Against	Concerning	On	Toward
Despite	Opposite	Unlike	Around	During
Out	Until	As	Except	Outside
Unto	At	For	Over	Up
Before	From	Past	With	Behind
Inside	Plus	Within	Below	Into
Regarding	Without	Besides	Like	Round

## Rules

1. A sentence cannot end with a preposition.

What time does the movie start *at*?

Try this: **At what time does the movie start?**

Who are you going to the movies *with*?

Try this: **With whom are you going to the movies?**

2. Do not capitalize prepositions in a title unless it is the first word.

The Book of Colors

On the Field

# Prepositional Phrases

- ⇒ When a noun or pronoun is added to a preposition, it is called a prepositional phrase. The word or word group the preposition introduces is called its object. An object is a noun, pronoun, or group of words that receives the action of a verb in sentence.

**They received a letter *from* Amanda telling *about* her experience.**

In this sentence, there are two prepositional phrases. In the first prepositional phrase, the preposition is “from” and its object is “Amanda.” In the second one, the preposition is “about” and its object is “experience.”

- ⇒ A prepositional phrase includes a preposition, its object and any other modifiers of that object. These phrases function like adjectives or adverbs by describing nouns or verbs in a sentence.

**James does not like to get up early in the morning.  
Christina likes to be prompt at 10 o'clock.**

- ⇒ Prepositional phrases are used to add interest and variety to sentences.

**Contrary to popular belief, not all college students binge drink.**

## Commonly Used

## Prepositional Phrases

1. *On* is used with days and specific dates.

She went to Hollister on Saturday.

Some historians believe the Vietnam War began on January 12, 1962.

2. *In* is used with months, seasons, and years.

She promised us in October we will go pumpkin picking.

I will graduate Monmouth University in spring 2008.

I graduated high school in 2003.

3. *In* is also used when referring to parts of the day such as:

-in the morning      -in the afternoon      -in the evening

She will be here in the morning.

We will have lunch in the afternoon.

We will go to the movies in the evening.

4. *At* is used to refer to more specific parts of the day such as:

-at noon            -at night            -at 4pm

He will be ready at noon.

We will go see the fireworks at night.

The class starts at 4pm.

5. The pronoun that is the object of a preposition should be in the objective case.

Would you like to go to the park with I?            <-incorrect

Would you like to go to the park with me?            <-correct

**\*\*Remember: Do not be too wordy!**

When revising, try to replace wordy prepositional phrases with adjectives or adverbs.

The “Swimming with Sharks” experience was one of danger but also one of excitement.

Try this: The “Swimming with the Sharks” experience was dangerous but also exciting.