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

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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
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.

1. On is used with days and specific dates.
   - She went to Hollister on Saturday.

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*?  
   Would you like to go to the park **with me**?  

   <-incorrect  
   <-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.