



PREPOSITIONS AND PREPOSITIONAL PHRASES

A preposition is a word used to show the relationship of a noun, pronoun, or noun equivalent to another word or word group in a sentence. A preposition usually refers to *position in time or space*.

Examples: The table was set **under** a tree.
The airplane flew **over** the crowd.

One word prepositions

above	before	down	of	through
about	behind	during	off	to
after	below	for	on	toward
against	beneath	from	out	under
along	beside	in	outside	until
among	between	inside	over	up
around	beyond	into	past	with, within
at	by	near	since	without

Two- and three-word prepositions

because of	in back of	next to
out of	in front of	on top of
in place of	in case of	instead of
in spite of		

Two- and three-word prepositions are used like one-word prepositions:

Examples: Put the salad fork **near** the dinner fork. (one-word preposition)

Put the salad fork **next to** the dinner fork. (two-word preposition)

PREPOSITIONAL PHRASES

A prepositional phrase is a preposition followed by a noun or noun phrase. It must contain at least two words, preposition + noun, and **does not** contain a subject, and **does not** contain a verb.

Example: *on the table* and *before dinner* are prepositional phrases

Prepositional phrases add depth, texture, detail, and richness to your sentences. They are important to your sentences, but you should ignore them when you are finding your subject/verb combinations.

Mentally omitting prepositional phrases from your sentences helps to locate your subject/verb combination in what remains.

REMEMBER

The subject cannot be in a prepositional phrase. A prepositional phrase begins with a preposition and ends with a noun or pronoun. Prepositional phrases can occur anywhere in the sentence---beginning, middle, or end.

Example: prepositional phrase **In the story**, the drab life prepositional phrase **of Cinderella** was changed prepositional phrase **by the fairy godmother.**