# Prepositions: Locators of Positions in Time and Place

Bottom of Form

A preposition describes a relationship between other words in a sentence. More specifically, a preposition describes where things are **positioned** in time and in place. Notice the word “position” in the word “preposition.” This is helpful when trying to remember what a preposition is.

**A Preposition Describes Where Something Is In Time And In Place**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| about above across after against around at before behind  below beneath beside | besides between beyond  by down during except  for from in inside into | like near  of off on out  outside over since  through throughout | till to toward under until up upon with without |

There are numerous prepositions **in** the English language. This table lists a few **of** them. Can you think **of** anymore?

**Prepositional Phrases**

Prepositions can be joined by other words to create ***prepositional phrases***. Prepositional phrases can be made up of a million different words, but they tend to be built the same:

a preposition followed by a determiner and an adjective or two, followed by a pronoun or noun (called the *object* of the preposition).

**Preposition**

**+ Determiner**

**+ Adjective(s)**

**(optional)**

**+ Noun or Pronoun**

**(object of the preposition)**

**= Prepositional Phrase**

Prepositional phrases are used to modify or better describe something:

* acting as an adjective or an adverb,
* locating something in time and space,
* modifying a noun, or
* describing when or where or under what conditions something happened.

Try to build some creative prepositional phrases **of your own**! Pick a preposition **from the table** above and add the other elements to form your prepositional phrase.

**ON**

**(preposition)**

**+ THE**

**(determiner)**

**+ SUNNY**

**(adjective)**

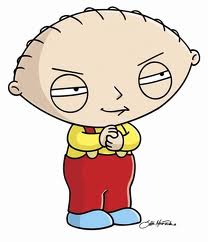
**+ LAWN**

**(noun)**

**= On the sunny lawn**

**(prepositional phrase)**

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_+ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. **(preposition) (determiner) (adjective) (noun or pronoun)**
2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_+ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. **(preposition) (determiner) (adjective) (noun or pronoun)**
3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_+ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. **(preposition) (determiner) (adjective) (noun or pronoun)**
4. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_+ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. **(preposition) (determiner) (adjective) (noun or pronoun)**
5. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_+ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. **(preposition) (determiner) (adjective) (noun or pronoun)**

[](http://www.google.com/imgres?start=129&um=1&hl=en&biw=1390&bih=710&tbm=isch&tbnid=KnqEV2yzVfWWaM:&imgrefurl=http://www.guardian.co.uk/film/2012/aug/19/brave-film-review-kelly-macdonald&docid=DOtdHYS1BBDQUM&imgurl=http://static.guim.co.uk/sys-images/Observer/Pix/pictures/2012/8/16/1345128213407/Brave-004.jpg&w=460&h=276&ei=v9JxULfaIIvi8gS-l4C4Cw&zoom=1&iact=hc&vpx=172&vpy=310&dur=250&hovh=174&hovw=290&tx=145&ty=96&sig=109913638816857617976&page=7&tbnh=162&tbnw=198&ndsp=23&ved=1t:429,r:17,s:129,i:199) [](http://www.google.com/imgres?um=1&hl=en&sa=N&biw=1390&bih=710&tbm=isch&tbnid=2-3UgfCCU1CtvM:&imgrefurl=http://www.rottentomatoes.com/quiz/female-cartoon-characters-1615753/&docid=mFKmBiOj52f7kM&imgurl=http://content7.flixster.com/question/68/11/81/6811817_std.png&w=166&h=270&ei=GtJxUJWJOYnG9gTRrIHgAw&zoom=1&iact=rc&dur=234&sig=109913638816857617976&page=3&tbnh=171&tbnw=101&start=47&ndsp=26&ved=1t:429,r:20,s:47,i:293&tx=68&ty=28) 

Pick a character from the pictures above.

Study the picture of your character to help you think about the facts and details of him or her.

Write a page describing your character. Consider the following details to help you:

* From where your character comes
* In what time your character exists
* What your character looks like physically
* What your character does
* Any interesting beliefs or mannerisms about your character
* Any fun stories about your character

In your page, include at least ten prepositional phrases.

Underline each prepositional phrase and circle the preposition in each phrase.

(Point out to students how much more rich their writing becomes when they use prepositions and prepositional phrases)