**Grammar Lesson 7: Prepositions**

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Uses of Prepositions

**Definition:**

A word (one of the [parts of speech](http://grammar.about.com/od/pq/g/partsspeechterm.htm) and a member of a [closed word class](http://grammar.about.com/od/c/g/closedclassterm.htm)) that shows the relationship between a [noun](http://grammar.about.com/od/mo/g/nounterm.htm) or [pronoun](http://grammar.about.com/od/pq/g/pronounterm.htm) and other words in a sentence.

The combination of a preposition and a [noun phrase](http://grammar.about.com/od/mo/g/nounphraseterm.htm) is called a [prepositional phrase](http://grammar.about.com/od/pq/g/prephraseterm.htm). A word group (such as *in front of* or *on top of*) that functions like a simple, one-word preposition is called a [**complex preposition**](http://grammar.about.com/od/c/g/comprepterm.htm).

Prepositions convey the following relationships: agency (*by*); comparison (*like, as . . . as*); direction (*to, toward, through*); place (*at, by, on*); possession (*of*); purpose (*for*); source (*from, out of*); and time (*at, before, on*). See "Observations," below.

Taken from http://grammar.about.com/od/pq/g/prepositerm.htm

**Putting to Practice:**

1. **Underline the prepositional phrases in the following paragraph. How do they establish place and time?**

The two little boys played in the boat-works yard until a cat climbed the fence. Instantly they gave chase, drove it across the tracks, and there filled their pockets with granite stones from the roadbed. The cat got away from them in the tall weeds, but they kept the stones because they were perfect in weight, shape, and size for throwing. You can’t ever tell when you’re going to need a stone like that. They turned down Cannery Row and whanged a stone at the corrugated-iron front of Morden’s Cannery. A startled man looked out the office window and then rushed for the door, but the boys were too quick for him. They were lying behind a wooden stringer in the lot before he even got near the door. He couldn’t have found them in a hundred years. John Steinbeck, *Cannery Row*, 457.

1. **Write a paragraph using at least five prepositional phrases. Use the list below. The paragraph should discuss the time and place whena team or player you liked lost a competition.**

List of Prepositions

**Prepositions:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| aboardaboutaboveabsentaccording toacrossafteragainst  ahead ofalongalongsideamidamidstamongaroundasas far asas well asatatopbeforebehindbelowbeneathbesidebetweenbyby means ofdespitedown | due toduringexceptfar fromfollowingforfrom inin addition toin case ofin front ofin place ofin spite ofinsideinside ofinstead ofin to (into)likemidminusnearnear tonextnext tonotwithstandingofoffonon account ofon behalf ofon top of | on to (onto)oppositeout ofoutsideoutside ofowing tooverpastplusprior toregardingroundsavesincethanthroughthroughouttilltimesto towardunderunderneath untilupuponwithwith regards towithinwithout |