

PREPOSITIONS INFORMATION SHEET

DEFINITION: Prepositions show the relationship between words in a sentence. They usually refer to place or position (think: prePOSITION).

The dog hid **under** the bed. (*Under* tells where the dog is in relationship to the bed.)

The dog ran **around** the bed. (Here, the dog isn't *under*, he's running *around* the bed.)

Study the following list of common prepositions. Memorize the ones in ***bold*** print.

about	behind	except	opposite	to
above	below	for	out	toward
across	beneath	from	outside	under
after	beside	in	over	underneath
against	besides	inside	past	unlike
along	between	into	per	until
alongside	beyond	like	plus	unto
amid	but (except)	near	regarding	up
among	by	next (to)	since	upon
around	concerning	of	through	with
as	despite	off	throughout	within
at	down	on	till	without
before	during	onto		

(Need help remembering? The first letters of the common ones spell out the phrases, ***off a bat / in a bow.***)

If you don't remember the common prepositions, refer to the chart above now and memorize the ones in bold print.

EXERCISE 1 Write 13 of the most common prepositions from memory: (*Cover the chart above.*)

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| 1. <u> </u> O <u> </u> | 5. <u> </u> B <u> </u> | 10. <u> </u> A <u> </u> |
| 2. <u> </u> F <u> </u> | 6. <u> </u> A <u> </u> | |
| 3. <u> </u> F <u> </u> | 7. <u> </u> T <u> </u> | 11. <u> </u> B <u> </u> |
| | | 12. <u> </u> O <u> </u> |
| 4. <u> </u> A <u> </u> | 8. <u> </u> I <u> </u> | 13. <u> </u> W <u> </u> |
| | 9. <u> </u> N <u> </u> | |

Check your answers with the answer key on page 3.

PREPOSITIONAL PHRASES

A **prepositional phrase** begins with a preposition, may include adjectives, and ends with a noun or pronoun (called its *object*). Prepositions come only in phrases, never alone.

The table in the hall should be moved from our old home.

Send it to us when it arrives by special courier.

One of my friends went to Florida to look* for a better job, but she hadn't been there before.*

Adjectives (such as *old*, *special*, and *better*) may also be part of prepositional phrases.

However, some words that look like prepositions may have other functions. For example, when used alone or combined with other parts of speech, they are not prepositions. * Therefore, notice exceptions such as *to* in *to look* (a verb infinitive) and *before* (used alone as an adverb).

PREPOSITIONAL PHRASES IN SENTENCES

The simple subject of a sentence is never in a prepositional phrase. To find the simple subject, start by crossing out all prepositional phrases in the sentence.

Because the only job of a preposition is to describe, words in prepositional phrases do not affect verbs or subject-pronoun agreement in sentences. Therefore, ignore prepositional phrases when matching subjects with verbs or pronouns.

^S ~~One of the new students~~ ^V **has lost** his or her keys.
 This ~~pair of pants~~ **needs** to be pressed.
~~Problems with schedules~~ **were discussed** earlier.

~~Several people in my class~~ **are** professionals.
 Freshly baked ~~brownies in the pan~~ **are** hard
 to hide because ~~they~~ **smell** so good.

EXERCISE 2: Circle the prepositions. Then cross out all prepositional phrases (including the preposition. Can you find the subjects (S) and verbs (V)?

EXAMPLE: Yesterday ~~at the store~~ a ^S carton ~~of fresh eggs~~ ^V ~~for your breakfast~~ suddenly **fell** ~~on the floor~~.

1. After dinner one of us will call you at work.
2. The tickets for tomorrow's game will go on sale at noon.
3. Among all entries, only the project by him and her won a prize.
4. Paintings at the gallery were sold to the highest bidder for large sums of money.
5. Between you and me, everyone in the office was planning a surprise party for him.
6. For the record, few farmers in that part of the state planted crops during the wet spring last year.
7. At the beginning of summer, some of the books from these cabinets were sent to the storeroom for inventory.

More information about using Prepositions:

PRONOUNS AFTER PREPOSITIONS: Use only these **object** pronouns after prepositions:

me you him her it us them

They went swimming **with** *me* . .

This discussion is **between** *him* and *them*.

Every one **of** *them* left **except** *us* sales reps.

Send the orders **to** both *her* and *me* **by**

Wednesday.

EXERCISE 3: a) Underline all prepositions (check the above list). b) Circle the correct pronoun(s).

1. Carol lives near (he, him).
2. Many people were in line behind (we, us).
3. Why don't you come to the movies with Leslie and (he, him)?
4. The work was done by (she, her) and (I, me).
5. Just between you and (I, me), I'd rather be on vacation.
6. Ms. Davis plans a meeting with (they, them) and (we, us).

Check your answers with the key on page 4 before you move on to Exercise 4.

EXERCISE 4: a) Underline all prepositions.
b) Circle the correct pronoun(s).

1. Do these keys belong to (him, he) or (her, she)?
2. Neither one of (we, us) will be at the meeting.
3. Both of (they, them) received scholarships from the company.
4. He said, "Between you and (I, me), (her, she) will get the promotion."
5. These contracts will be signed by (he, him) and (me, I).

Check your work with the answer key on page 4.

Answer Key to Prepositions Exercises

EXERCISE 1: Write 13 of the most common prepositions from memory.

Of After By In At Between
 For Among Near On
 From To With

EXERCISE 2: Remember: Subjects and verbs are NEVER found in prepositional phrases!

EXAMPLE: Yesterday ~~at the store~~ ^S a *carton* ~~of fresh eggs for your breakfast~~ ^V suddenly *fell* ~~on the floor~~.

1. ~~After dinner~~ ^S *one of us* ~~will call you at work~~ ^V.
2. The tickets ~~for tomorrow's game~~ ^S *will go on sale* ~~at noon~~ ^V.
3. ~~Among all entries~~ ^S, only the *project* ~~by him and her~~ ^V won a prize.
4. *Paintings* ~~at the gallery~~ ^S *were sold* ~~to the highest bidder for large sums of money~~ ^V.
5. ~~Between you and me~~ ^S, *everyone* ~~in the office~~ ^V was planning a surprise party for him.
6. ~~For the record~~ ^S, few *farmers* ~~in that part of the state~~ ^V planted crops ~~during the wet spring~~ last year.
7. ~~At the beginning of summer~~ ^S, *some of the books* ~~from these cabinets~~ ^V were sent ~~to the storeroom for inventory~~.

EXERCISE 3: a) Underline all prepositions (check the above list). b) Circle the correct pronoun(s).

1. Carol lives near (he, **him**).
2. Many people were in line behind (we, **us**).
3. Why don't you come to the movies with Leslie and (he, **him**)?
4. The work was done by (she, **her**) and (I, **me**).
5. Just between you and (I, **me**), I'd rather be on vacation.
6. Ms. Davis plans a meeting with (they, **them**) and (we, **us**).

EXERCISE 4: a) Underline all prepositions.
 b) Circle the correct pronoun(s).

1. Do these keys belong to (**him**, he) or (**her**, she)?
2. Neither one of (we, **us**) will be at the meeting.
3. Both of (they, **them**) received scholarships from the company.
4. He said, "Between you and (I, **me**), (her, **she**) will get the promotion."

5. These contracts will be signed by (he, **him**) and (**me**, I).