

What Are Prepositions?

A **Preposition** is a word or words that show the relationship of a noun or pronoun to some other word in the sentence. The preposition begins the phrase and the noun or pronoun ends the phrase. This noun or pronoun is called the **object of the preposition**. Prepositions often—but not always—describe a physical location, placement, and location in time.

Example:

The **door** *to the house* is *below the covered porch*.

In the sentence above the prepositions are *to* and *below*. The objects of these prepositions are *house* and *porch*. The prepositional phrase *to the house* shows placement in relation to the door. The prepositional phrase *below the covered porch* also shows placement in relation to the door.

Study the charts below to become familiar with prepositions.

Commonly Used Prepositions

aboard	but	like	through
about	by	near	throughout
above	concerning	next	to
across	considering	of	toward
after	despite	off	under
against	during	on	underneath
at	except	opposite	unlike
before	excluding	out	until
behind	following	over	up
below	for	past	upon
beneath	from	per	versus
beside	in	regarding	with
beyond	into	since	without

Compound Prepositions

according to	because of	next to
ahead of	by means of	on account of
along with	in addition to	on top of
apart from	in front of	out of
aside from	in spite of	owing to
as to	instead of	

Prepositional phrases often act as adjectives and adverbs to modify another word in the sentence. In the example above both phrases modify *door* and so are adjective phrases modifying a noun. Study the examples below to see how prepositional phrases work.

Examples:

Andy **parked** the car *outside the locked gate*. (adverb phrase modifying the verb)

Erica was **sore** *from last night's soccer practice*. (adverb phrase modifying an adjective)

Jeff spoke **loudly** *over the noise of the landing helicopter*. (adverb phrase modifying adverb and adjective phrase modifying the noun)

He **drove** rather unexpectedly well *during his test* and **passed** *with flying colors*. (adverb phrases modifying the verbs)

From the dark recesses of the shadowy streets, the zombie hordes **gather** to **feast** *on the blood of the weak and helpless*. (adverb phrases modifying verbs and adjective phrases modifying the noun)

FROM A TALE OF TWO CITIES BY CHARLES DICKENS

It was the best **of times**, it was the worst **of times**, it was the age **of wisdom**, it was the age **of foolishness**, it was the epoch **of belief**, it was the epoch **of incredulity**, it was the season **of Light**, it was the season **of Darkness**, it was the spring **of hope**, it was the winter **of despair**, we had everything **before us**, we had nothing **before us**, we were all going direct **to Heaven**, we were all going direct the other way- **in short**, the period was so far **like the present period**, that some **of its noisiest authorities** insisted **on its** being received, **for good** or **for evil**, **in the superlative degree of comparison** only.



Homage to Gabriel Garcia Marquez-2014-Jhon Paz, Xinhua-- Zumapress

There were a king **with a large jaw** and a queen **with a plain face**, **on the throne of England**; there were a king **with a large jaw** and a queen **with a fair face**, **on the throne of France**. **In both countries** it was clearer than crystal **to the lords of the State preserves of loaves and fishes**, that things **in general** were settled **for ever**.