# Prepositional Phrases

# What is a prepositional phrase?

A prepositional phrase is a modifying phrase that begins with a preposition and ends with a noun or pronoun. They are not complete or independent sentences, so they cannot stand alone in formal writing.

# Examples of Prepositional phrases:

* In your jacket pocket
* Under the window
* On your phone
* Beside the table
* Without a car
* During the movie
* From a book
* Into the grocery store

**Prepositions are not limited to any one place in a sentence.** They can be at the beginning, middle, or end:

* “Until the man in the monster costume jumped from behind the bush, my little sister hid from me.”

# What is a preposition?

Prepositions are important structural words that express relationships—in space, time, or other senses—between nouns or pronouns and other words in a sentence. Note: Prepositions are always part of a phrase.

# Common Prepositions

About above across after against

along among around as at

before behind below beneath beside

between beyond by down during

except for from in inside

into like near of off

on onto out over past

regarding since through toward under

until up upon with without

# Some Compound Prepositions

according to as well as because of by way of due to

except for in addition to in front of in place of in spite of

instead of next to out of with regard to

# Exercises

**For the following sentences, fill in the blanks using the appropriate prepositions from the table below. Each word will only be used once.**

between before around

after instead of on

through because of about

since from without

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ we drove \_­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the mountains, we had to stop and look at the view.
2. It has been a while \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the last time I saw you.
3. We decided to take a walk \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the lake.
4. I couldn’t leave the house \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ my shoes.
5. I lost my hat \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the high gusts of wind.
6. Your glasses are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the table.
7. She was caught \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a rock and a hard place.
8. The gifts \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Grandma made Linda smile.
9. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ she got home, he asked her \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ her day.
10. I decided to get to get strawberry ice cream \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ chocolate.

**In the following paragraph, circle the prepositional phrases. There are fifteen total, and some are a single word. Use the lists on the reverse side of this handout to help you find them all. [[1]](#footnote-1)**

It was no secret that Old Man Taylor had won the lottery the week before and he’d happily proclaimed, crazy codger that he was, that he’d never store his riches in the bank. He didn’t believe in such unpredictable institutions, not after the great market crashes of the past. So when the two burglars broke into his house one early Sunday morning, shortly after Taylor left for church, they thought for certain that they’d find his fortune ready and waiting to be stolen. Search though they might, however, they discovered nothing in his house but stacks of old magazines, heaps of disgusting used tissues and a bed so hard on the back that it would break the average man’s spine after a night’s rest . . .

1. Bird, Matt. “Thievery and a Drippy Nose.” *Bird is Absurd.* 13 Dec. 2011. birdisabsurd.blogspot.com/2011/12/thievery-and-drippy-nose.html. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)