


Quick Clues to English

LBCC Developmental Studies

Prepositions

A preposition shows a relationship between two words. Often this relationship shows position in time or space. Here is a list of prepositions:

about	below	inside	through
above	beneath	into	throughout
across	beside	like	
after	between	near	to
against	beyond	of	toward
along	but	off	under
among	by	on	underneath
amid	despite	onto	unlike
around	down	out	until ('til)
as	during	outside	up
aside	except	over	upon
at	for	past	with
before	from	round	within
behind	in	since	without

 **Prepositional phrases will always start with the preposition and end with the object of the preposition.**

The lamp fell (off the table).

prep. object

↑

Notice that the subject and verb are never inside the prepositional phrase.



To find the object, use the preposition to ask a question.

The book was ^{prep.} (beside the tall yellow ^{object} candle).
(*beside* what? candle)

We fished ^{prep.} (for salmon) ^{Object} ^{prep.} (in the swirling ^{object} water).
(*for* what? salmon)
(*in* what? water)



A prepositional phrase may have more than one object. They will be connected with *and* or *or*.

We will speak ^{prep.} (with the mayor ^{object} and the governor ^{object}).

^{prep} (Through the snow ^{object} and driving wind ^{object}) Juanita trudged.



Sometimes a coordinating conjunction (*and*, *or*) glues one prepositional phrase to another prepositional phrase.

^{prep} (After a hard work day) ^{object} and (before a hot bath) ^{prep}, a tall cold ^{object} drink and a lawn chair are heaven.

The three fishermen climbed ^{prep} (across logs) ^{object} and (over rocks) ^{prep} ^{object}.



Prepositional phrases may be stacked, one after the other.

prep. object prep. object
The notice is (on the bulletin board)(in the hall).

prep object prep object prep
(Over the river) and (through the woods) (to Grandmother's
object
house) we go.

Sometimes two prepositions are placed together. In that case, the second preposition starts the phrase. The first preposition doesn't have an object since it acts as an adverb.

adv prep object adv prep
Model planes will line up (on the right) and take off (from
object
the ramp).

Prepositional phrases may appear anywhere in a sentence. When a phrase of 5 words or more introduces a sentence, use a comma.

(Between two tall maple trees), Julie stood waiting for him.

comma 

(In this part of the neighborhood), girls often help their elderly neighbors.

comma 