

## Ten Things to Know about Prepositions

Prepared by Elsa Pla ([www.writecook.com](http://www.writecook.com))

1- Some common prepositions:

aboard	due to	on to (onto)
about	during	opposite
above	except	out of
according to	far from	outside
across	following	outside of
across from	for	owing to
after	from	over
against	in	past
ahead of	in addition to	plus
along	in case of	prior to
alongside	in front of	regarding
amid	in place of	round
amidst	in regard to	save
among	in spite of	since
around	inside	than
as	inside of	through
as far as	instead of	throughout
as well as	in to (into)	till
at	like	times
atop	mid	to
before	minus	together with
behind	near	toward
below	near to	under
beneath	next	underneath
beside	next to	until
between	of	up
by	off	upon
by means of	on	with
despite	on account of	within
down	on behalf of	without
	on top of	

2- Prepositions are always found at the beginning of prepositional phrases. A prepositional phrase is made up of:

a preposition + optional modifiers of the object + object (noun, pronoun, or gerund)

Example: How much is that puppy **in the window?**

preposition + modifier + object

3- Prepositional phrases function as adjectives or adverbs.

Examples: The girls checked the closet **with all the lost-and-found items**. (as an adjective modifying *closet*)

They searched **all over the school**. (as an adverb modifying *searched*).

4- A preposition shows a relationship between the object of the prepositional phrase and another word in the sentence.

Example: The cow jumped **over the moon**. (*over* shows the relationship between *moon* and *jumped*)

5- A preposition can show the location (position or direction) of its object in the physical world.

Examples: Humpty-Dumpty **sat on a wall**.

We went **from the frying pan into the fire**.

6- A preposition can show the location of its object in time.

Example: Let's go skating **after the party**.

7- A preposition can show other relationships – not just location – between its object and another word in the sentence.

Examples: The villagers fought **with spears and swords**.

We walked to school **in spite of the downpour**.

8- Compound prepositions are made up of more than one word.

Examples: "**Outside of** a dog, a book is man's best friend. **Inside of** a dog it's too dark to read." –Groucho Marx

9- Some words can be used as prepositions or adverbs. If the word has no object, then it's probably an adverb.

Examples: Come see me **after the performance**. (preposition with object)

Come see me **after**. (adverb [no object])

10- Some words can be used as prepositions or subordinate conjunctions (after, as, before, since, until).

Subordinate conjunctions are followed by a subject *and a verb*, forming a subordinate clause. (A subordinate clause [also referred to as a dependent clause] is a group of words that have both a subject and a verb but cannot stand alone as a sentence.)

Examples: The evidence stands **before you**. (prepositional phrase)

**Before you buy that dress**, check that it fits well. (subordinate clause)

subordinate subject verb direct

conjunction object

## A FEW PREPOSITIONAL PHRASES

