

**Grammar Worksheet Two**  
Sophomore English

Name:

The Book of Grammar is online at <http://www.lgsuhdsd.k12.ca.us>  
Go to: Academics, English, Book of Grammar (link at bottom of page)  
Grammar Quiz Two on Friday, October 1st

## Prepositions

A *preposition* is a word used to show the relation of a noun or pronoun to some other word in the sentence. It *positions* the noun relative to the other words.

The following words are commonly used as prepositions:

aboard	beside	on
about	besides	over
above	beyond	past
across	but (meaning <i>except</i> )	since
after	by	through
against	concerning	throughout
along	down	to
amid	during	toward(s)
among	except	under
around	for	underneath
as	from	until
at	in	up
before	into	upon
behind	like	with
below	of	within
beneath	off	without

Commonly used prepositions of two or more words:

according to	in front of	in spite of
because of	in the middle of	on top of
contrary to	in place of	together with
for the sake of	instead of	in reference to

Words that can be either conjunctions or prepositions:

after	before	since
as	for	until

If you think a word is a preposition but cannot find a noun or pronoun introduced by the word, it is not a preposition. Examine the examples below.

*We drove around town.*

In this sentence *around* is a preposition because it introduces the relationship of *town*.

*We drove around.*

In this sentence *around* is not a preposition because it does not introduce a noun or pronoun.

*I have waited since noon.*

*Since* is a preposition because it introduces a noun, *noon*.

*I have waited since Larry left.*

Here *since* is not a preposition because it introduces a whole clause (subject plus verb), not a noun or pronoun. Here *since* is a conjunction.

*I went to the store.*

Here *to* is a preposition because it introduces the noun *store*.

*I went to buy some things.*

Here *to* is not a preposition because it is part of a verb (it helps form the infinitive); it does not introduce a noun or pronoun.

A preposition is always used with a noun or a pronoun to form a prepositional phrase. The preposition introduces the phrase and, therefore, connects it to the remainder of the sentence. A preposition can have no other use in a sentence. Prepositions are sometimes confused with adverbs and conjunctions. You can distinguish between a preposition and an adverb because a preposition always has an object, while an adverb never has an object. You can distinguish between a preposition and a conjunction because a conjunction is introducing a clause.

**Directions:** Underline the prepositions in the following sentences and circle their object or objects. (A prepositional phrase may have a compound object.) Place parentheses around each prepositional phrase. There may not be a preposition in every sentence.

1. We walked over the mountain.
2. Bobby came over.
3. I will go after noon.
4. I will go after Harry arrives.
5. I wanted to go to the library.

6. I hoped to find a book there.
7. I sent invitations to Mary, Helen, and Jack.
8. I went to the store to buy some milk.
9. I have a paper to write before I can go to the movie.
10. They will go in spite of the rain.
11. Grain crops like wheat are grown widely in the Midwest.
12. English is used by a quarter of the people of the world.
13. A pale, cobwebby moon shone through the trees.
14. Grandpa dozed quietly with his feet on the rail.
15. The colors of the sunset were captured in the puddle of dirty water.
16. Near the edge of the marsh a solitary blackbird perched on a cattail.
17. The hull of the *Westward Ho* was hidden by a towing breaker.
18. During the first lap of the race, Tom ran rather slowly behind the others.
19. At the signal every diver on the ship jumped quickly into the water.
20. Baby gulls walk awkwardly because of their big feet and small wings.