

Prepositions

What is the difference between the two texts?

I was thinking **about** her one day, walking home **from** the grocery store **on** Gibb Street. Then I came **to** the vacant lot and saw three people **in** different parts **of** it. I thought maybe they were looking **for** money. Turned out they had shovels, not metal detectors. When I saw they had little gardens going, I said **to** myself, “I believe I’ll plant me a patch **of** goldenrod right here.” (25)

I was thinking one day, walking home. Then I came and saw three people. I thought maybe they were looking. Turned out they had shovels, not metal detectors. When I saw they had little gardens going, I said, “I believe I’ll plant me a patch right here.” (25)

HOW IMPORTANT ARE PREPOSITIONS?

Prepositions make your writing clearer, help tell the reader where, when, or how, and show relationships. They make your writing more descriptive and rich.

Common prepositions

Location			Time	Other relationships
above	beyond	outside	after	about
across	by	over	as	despite
against	down	past	before	except
along	from	through	during	for
among	in	to	since	like
around	inside	toward	until	of
at	into	under		with
behind	near	underneath		without
below	off	up		
beside	on	within		
between	out			

A **preposition** shows the relationship between a noun and other words in the sentence.

One way to help you remember prepositions is to think of a cloud and an airplane.

The airplane can go **around, to, through, below, over, beyond** the cloud, etc.

Circle the prepositions in the sentences below.



1. The squirrel hid the nuts under the deck.
2. Today they played near the lake.
3. Can I go to the movie with Marshall?
4. They dug for potatoes and carrots by the fence.
5. The dog ran out the door, down the street, and finally stopped around the corner.
6. Hiding below the bushes was a small rabbit with big, furry ears.
7. Oh, no! You should not interrupt the teacher during class.
8. He will be at the game on Tuesday.
9. I was sick the day before the carnival.
10. Sam looked among the books inside the library for his favorite novel.
11. A new family has moved into the house beside mine.
12. My painting is sitting on the shelf above the window in the room behind the black door.

Think of at least 3 appropriate prepositions for each blank. Try not to repeat prepositions!

Example: We went hiking near , around, through the woods.

1. Put your books _____, _____, _____ the table.
2. To find the school, walk _____, _____, _____ this street
3. The restaurant is _____, _____, _____ the lake.
4. Call me any time _____, _____, _____ noon.
5. Ethan sits _____, _____, _____ me in math class.

Prepositional Phrases

- A **prepositional phrase** is a group of words that begins with a preposition and ends with a noun or pronoun.
- The noun or pronoun that ends the prepositional phrase is called the **object of the prepositional phrase**. The object of the prepositional phrase is labeled O.P.
- The O.P.. will answer the question “whom?” or “what?”

near jungles *by the door* *beside him and her*
prep O.P. prep O.P. prep O.P.

- Note: “to” followed by a verb is called an *infinitive* and is **NOT** a prepositional phrase! *to run* *to jump* *to sing*

Underline the prepositional phrase(s) in the following sentences. On the line below the sentence tell what would be the difference without the prepositional phrase(s).

Example After school, the boys played a game of baseball at the park.

You would not know when or where the boys played or what the game was.

1. We hid our canoe in the bushes and made camp by the river.

2. Sandy signed her name on the line and passed the paper across the table.

3. Without any warning, the dog dashed to the door and barked loudly.

4. The storm caused the tree near our front yard to fall against the house.

5. I was reading about the homeless living below bridges or along rivers.

6. The children danced around the pole until the song came to an end.

Add prepositional phrases to the following sentences to make them more detailed, precise, and interesting.

7. The day was cloudy. (add one prepositional phrase)

8. Sam fell hard. (add two prepositional phrases)

9. My friends were happy. (add three prepositional phrases)

10. The train roared. (add four prepositional phrases!)
