

The image shows the cover of a spiral-bound notebook. The cover is a light tan or beige color with a subtle, repeating pattern of the words 'The Book of Grammar' in a small, light brown font. The spiral binding is on the left side, with the metal wire visible. The text is centered on the cover.

The Book of Grammar
Lesson One

Mr. McBride
AP Language and Composition

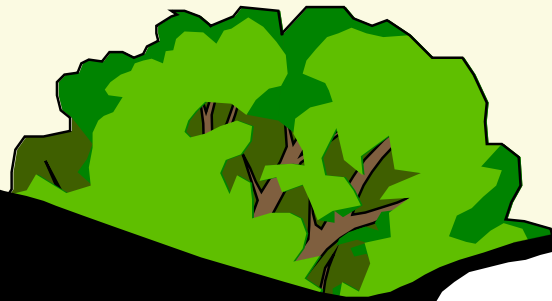
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Definition of a Preposition

- A preposition is a connecting word used to show the relation of a noun or pronoun to some other word in the sentence.



Object of the preposition

- A preposition is regularly followed by a noun or pronoun which is called the object of the preposition.
- For each of the following examples, identify the object of the preposition:
 - “The girl walked across the street.”
 - “The boy walked under the bridge.”
 - “The Postmaster affixed the stamp to the letter.”
 - “The bird waddled away from the tree.”

Prepositional Phrase

- A preposition and its object are together called the prepositional phrase.
 - The prepositional phrase includes the preposition and the noun or pronoun modified, plus any adjectives modifying the object of the preposition.
- Can you identify the prepositional phrases in the following familiar sentence?
 - “Over the river and through the woods, to Grandmother’s house we go.”

Practice with Prepositions

- If you think a word is a preposition but cannot find a noun or pronoun introduced by the word, it is not a preposition. Can you find prepositions in the following sentences?
- *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. *Around* is an adverb in this sentence.

Conjunction or Preposition?

- Conjunctions join together words and clauses in sentences.
 - Mary **and** her sister wanted to go home, **but** they had no way to get there.
- The following words may be prepositions *or* conjunctions:
 - after, as, before, for, since, until

Conjunction or Preposition?

- To determine whether one of these six words is a preposition or a conjunction, you have to determine if it is introducing a clause (making it a conjunction) or an object (making it a preposition).
- In the following sentences, can you determine whether *since* is a preposition or a conjunction?
 - *I have waited since noon.*
 - *I have waited since Larry left.*

More Practice With Prepositions

- *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.

More practice with prepositions

- *To* is another word that is sometimes a preposition and sometimes not. See if you can determine whether or not *to* is a preposition in the following sentences.

- *I went to the store.*
- *I went to buy some things.*



More Practice With Prepositions

- *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 *to buy*); it does not introduce a noun or pronoun.

Adverbial or Adjectival?

- All prepositional phrases function as either adjectives or adverbs in a sentence. Can you tell whether each of the following examples are adverbial or adjectival?
 - Billy ran to his mother.
 - Janet drove her new car around town.
 - She wanted the car with the convertible roof.

Don't End Clauses or Sentences with Prepositions

- Always remember, a preposition is a terrible thing to end a sentence with. Even though grammatical standards have relaxed somewhat in the last century, it is still inadvisable to end a sentence (or a clause within a sentence) with a preposition if it is a formal context you are writing in. It just sounds bad, even when it is not a formal audience you are writing for.

A notable exception...

- “That is a rule up with which I will not put.” – Winston Churchill

A spiral-bound notebook with a light beige, textured cover. The spiral binding is on the left side. The text "The End of Lesson One" is centered on the cover in a brown, serif font.

The End of Lesson One