

The image shows the cover of a spiral-bound notebook. The cover is a light beige or cream color with a subtle, repeating pattern of faint, stylized floral or geometric motifs. The spiral binding is visible on the left side, consisting of a series of metal loops. The text is centered on the cover in a dark brown, serif font.

The Book of Grammar

Lesson Two

10H

Mr. McBride

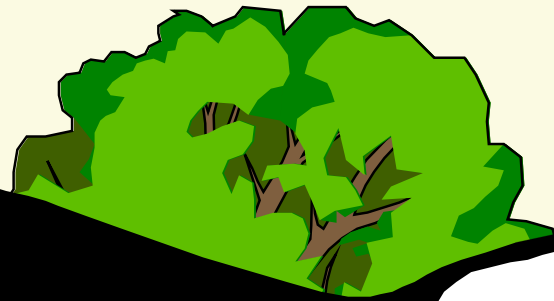
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Definition of a Preposition

- 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.

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

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The End of Lesson Two

Quiz on Tuesday, October 23rd