

Act One Review: Definition of Preposition

A preposition is a **relationship**; it might be a relationship of time or space or something else. You can always find the preposition. It always comes FIRST, at the beginning of a group of words called a **phrase**, and because it is first, it's in the PRE-position. Here are some examples.

1. In the sentence below, the preposition *in* begins the prepositional phrase *in the pudding*. Notice that *pudding* is not the subject of the sentence; puddings don't eat. The dog ate the grapes; *dog* is the subject: *dog/ate*. (Puddings rarely eat anything—hardly ever.)

The	dog	in	the	pudding	ate	grapes.
adj.	n.	prep.	adj.	n.	v.	n.
	subj.				AVP	D.O.
		-----prep. phrase-----				

Notice that there are three lines below the sentence: one for the parts of speech, one for the parts of the sentence, and one for phrases. AVP means action verb predicate. In the next example you will see LVP, which means linking verb predicate. You may need to review the parts of speech and the parts of the sentence.

2. In the next sentence, *with* is the preposition, and it is the first word of the prepositional phrase *with two ears*. *With two ears* acts as an adjective to modify the noun *beagle*.

What?	is	a	beagle	with	two	ears.
n.	v.	adj.	n.	prep.	adj.	n.
subj.	LVP		S.C.			
				-----prep. phrase-----		

3. In this third sentence, *with* is the preposition, and the phrase is *with his beak*. Prepositional phrases often have three words, but they may have only two or more than three. Here, the prepositional phrase modifies the verb *pushed*.

With	his	beak,	Poodle	pushed	the	puddle.
prep.	adj.	n.	n.	v.	adj.	n.
			subj.	AVP		D.O.
----prep. phrase---						