



A prepositional phrase is a group of words beginning with a preposition and acting as a modifier.

Prepositional phrase: A **prepositional phrase** begins with a preposition (in the PRE position) and usually concludes with the **object of the preposition**. The preposition shows the relationship between its object and another word in the sentence; the relationship can be of space, time, direction, similarity, possession, exclusion, or many others. If I say *the tree in the woods*, the preposition *in* shows a spatial relationship between its object *tree* and the noun *woods*. Prepositional phrases behave as **modifiers**—that is, they act like big adjectives or big adverbs. In the sentence *The tree in the woods blossomed*, the prepositional phrase *in the woods* acts as an adjective to modify the noun *tree*.

The object of the preposition is an object. Object pronouns can be objects of preposition, but subject pronouns cannot. **A subject is a subject, and an object is an object.** It is correct to say “This is a letter for you and me,” but it is wrong to say “This is a letter for you and I.” Notice the object pronouns in the following correct prepositional phrases:

This award is *for him and me*.
He and I talked *with you and him*.
I asked a question *about her and us*.

There is no subject of preposition. It is not unusual for someone to make the mistake of using subject pronouns as objects of prepositions, especially when the object of preposition is compound. So someone who would never say “These apples are for I” will mysteriously and ridiculously say “These apples are for you and I.” We should always say *for me*. “These apples are for you and me” is correct grammar. An object is an object, period. Subject pronouns may not be used as objects of prepositions, compounds notwithstanding.

