**Grammar Lesson 7: Prepositions**

**Dr. Gingrich, 10H and AP Lang and Comp**

Uses of Prepositions

**Definition:**

A word (one of the [parts of speech](http://grammar.about.com/od/pq/g/partsspeechterm.htm) and a member of a [closed word class](http://grammar.about.com/od/c/g/closedclassterm.htm)) that shows the relationship between a [noun](http://grammar.about.com/od/mo/g/nounterm.htm) or [pronoun](http://grammar.about.com/od/pq/g/pronounterm.htm) and other words in a sentence.

The combination of a preposition and a [noun phrase](http://grammar.about.com/od/mo/g/nounphraseterm.htm) is called a [prepositional phrase](http://grammar.about.com/od/pq/g/prephraseterm.htm). A word group (such as *in front of* or *on top of*) that functions like a simple, one-word preposition is called a [**complex preposition**](http://grammar.about.com/od/c/g/comprepterm.htm).

Prepositions convey the following relationships: agency (*by*); comparison (*like, as . . . as*); direction (*to, toward, through*); place (*at, by, on*); possession (*of*); purpose (*for*); source (*from, out of*); and time (*at, before, on*). See "Observations," below.

Taken from http://grammar.about.com/od/pq/g/prepositerm.htm

**Putting to Practice:**

1. **Underline the prepositional phrases in the following paragraph. How do they establish place and time?**

The two little boys played in the boat-works yard until a cat climbed the fence. Instantly they gave chase, drove it across the tracks, and there filled their pockets with granite stones from the roadbed. The cat got away from them in the tall weeds, but they kept the stones because they were perfect in weight, shape, and size for throwing. You can’t ever tell when you’re going to need a stone like that. They turned down Cannery Row and whanged a stone at the corrugated-iron front of Morden’s Cannery. A startled man looked out the office window and then rushed for the door, but the boys were too quick for him. They were lying behind a wooden stringer in the lot before he even got near the door. He couldn’t have found them in a hundred years. John Steinbeck, *Cannery Row*, 457.

1. **Write a paragraph using at least five prepositional phrases. Use the list below. The paragraph should discuss the time and place whena team or player you liked lost a competition.**

List of Prepositions

**Prepositions:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| aboard  about  above  absent  according to  across  after  against  ahead of  along  alongside  amid  amidst  among  around  as  as far as  as well as  at  atop  before  behind  below  beneath  beside  between  by  by means of  despite  down | due to  during  except  far from  following  for  from  in  in addition to  in case of  in front of  in place of  in spite of  inside  inside of  instead of  in to (into)  like  mid  minus  near  near to  next  next to  notwithstanding  of  off  on  on account of  on behalf of  on top of | on to (onto)  opposite  out of  outside  outside of  owing to  over  past  plus  prior to  regarding  round  save  since  than  through  throughout  till  times  to  toward  under  underneath  until  up  upon  with  with regards to  within  without |