

## What is a preposition?

Prepositions are words or phrases that relate words to one another. Prepositions can be used to relate place, direction, manner, place in time, and amount.

A few common prepositions are to, at, and on. They can be used as follows:

- She went to the beach yesterday.
- I have a meeting at three o'clock.
- There is a spider on the bathroom wall.

## What is a prepositional phrase?

Prepositions accompany a noun or pronoun, known as the object of the preposition. The object of the preposition normally follows the preposition itself, and when these words are combined, a prepositional phrase is formed. Prepositional phrases are normally formed as follows:

**preposition + modifier (optional) + object of preposition (noun or pronoun)**

For example:

Preposition	Modifier	Object of Preposition
to		the beach
at		three o'clock
on	the bathroom	wall

Prepositional phrases are found within sentences and can never stand as complete sentences on their own, as the subject of the sentence is always outside of the prepositional phrase. The following examples show where the prepositional phrase occurs in each sentence:

- She went to the beach yesterday.
- I have a meeting at three o'clock.
- There is a spider on the bathroom wall.

### *Where can I learn more about prepositions?*

- For more information on how to use prepositions, visit the Purdue Online Writing Lab at <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/594/1/>.
- For a list of common prepositions, visit [http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/preposition\\_list.htm](http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/preposition_list.htm).