

# PREPOSITIONS AND PREPOSITIONAL PHRASES

Academic Skills Center \* Room 1501 \* Shoreline Community College

Many PREPOSITIONS indicate the location of someone or something in place or time. These are the most common prepositions:

about	below	in	outside	upon
above	beneath	inside	over	unlike
across	beside	in addition to	past	with
after	between	in spite of	regardless of	within
against	beyond	into	since	without
along with	by	like (as)	such as	
among	down	near	through	
around	during	of	to	
as	except	off	toward	
because of	except for	on	under	
before	for	on account of	until	
behind	from	once	up	

**RULE:** For a word to be a preposition, the word must have an object. Objects are nouns or pronouns, and they answer the question "What?"

**Examples:**

(1) She went **into** the house. (She went **into what**? Is there an answer to that question? Yes, the *house*. Is *house* a noun? Yes. Therefore, *into* is a preposition.)

(2) Bob likes to sing Karaoke. (Bob likes to **what**? Sing. It sounds like *sing* answers the question *what*? But is *sing* a noun? No. Therefore, it can't be an object of *to*, so *to* is not a preposition in this sentence.)

**RULE:** Some prepositions consist of more than one word.

**Examples:** Our family will arrive late ( <sup>P</sup> on account of <sup>OP</sup> the new security measures ).

( <sup>P</sup> Aside from <sup>OP</sup> the assignment ) ( <sup>P</sup> in <sup>OP</sup> this book ), our project will be easy to do.

## PREPOSITIONAL PHRASES

**RULE:** A PREPOSITIONAL PHRASE is a group of words starting with a preposition and ending with an object. The object is the first noun or pronoun after the preposition.

**Examples:** We are going ( <sup>P</sup> to <sup>OP</sup> a movie ) <sup>P</sup> tonite ( <sup>OP</sup> at <sup>P</sup> Parkplace <sup>OP</sup> Cinema ).

Lai received this gift ( <sup>P</sup> from <sup>OP</sup> him ) three weeks ago.

( <sup>P</sup> In <sup>OP</sup> addition to my homework ), I have several letters to write tonite.