

## Learning to Use Prepositional Phrases Grades 1-3

Listen to the song, *To Grandmother's House We Go*. Many important words in the song are prepositions. The words **over**, **through** and **to** are prepositions. A **preposition** is a word that connects a noun or a pronoun to the rest of the sentence. It shows how a noun or pronoun relates to another word. Prepositions tell us four things:

- Location**: where something is.
- Direction**: where something is going.
- Time**: when something will happen.
- Relationship**: between the noun or pronoun and another word.

The sleigh went **over** the bridge.  
The word **over** is the preposition. It shows direction.

The children went **with** their parents.  
The word **with** is the preposition. It shows relationship.

When we use a preposition, we often use a **prepositional phrase**. This is a group of words that begins with a preposition and ends with a noun or pronoun. The noun or pronoun at the end of the phrase is called the **object of the preposition**. Every preposition must have an object.

Sometimes the object of the preposition is the word right next to it. For example:

Jenny likes to sit next **to mother** in the sleigh.  
The word **to** is the preposition. The object of the preposition is **mother**.

I like having Thanksgiving **with grandmother**.  
The word **with** is the preposition. **Grandmother** is the object of the preposition.

Sometimes, the object comes a few words after the preposition.

I wanted a slice **of the pumpkin pie**.  
The word **of** is the preposition, and **pie** is the object of the preposition.  
**Of the delicious pie** is a prepositional phrase.

**A prepositional phrase** includes the preposition, the object of the preposition and all the words in between.

You can have more than one prepositional phrase in a sentence.

The sleigh went **over the river** and **through the wood**.

(Scroll down for printable activities and answer keys.)  
(Scroll down for a complete list of prepositions.)

## ACTIVITIES

### Activity A

1. What four things do prepositions tell us?

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_

2. A \_\_\_\_\_ is a group of two or more words that begin with a preposition and end with a noun or pronoun.

3. The noun or pronoun at the end of a \_\_\_\_\_ phrase is called the \_\_\_\_\_ of the preposition.

4. A \_\_\_\_\_ includes the preposition, the object of the preposition and all the words in between.

5. Can you have more than one prepositional phrase in a sentence? \_\_\_\_\_

### Activity B

Read the sentences below. Underline the preposition in each sentence. Write the object of the preposition on the blank line. If you don't know which word is the preposition, check the list of most common prepositions in the lesson above.

1. Grandmother's house is by the woods. \_\_\_\_\_

2. I like taking trips with Mom and Dad. \_\_\_\_\_

3. That song is from a Thanksgiving book. \_\_\_\_\_

4. We had dinner at the table. \_\_\_\_\_

5. We saw a deer in the forest. \_\_\_\_\_

6. Grandpa took us for a walk. \_\_\_\_\_

7. We read a poem by Robert Frost. \_\_\_\_\_

8. Jane took her coat from the closet. \_\_\_\_\_

9. Mom said we would go home in a minute. \_\_\_\_\_

(Scroll down for Answer Key)

## **Answer Key**

### **Activity A**

1. What four things do prepositions tell us?

Location, Direction, Time, Relationship

2. A prepositional phrase is a group of two or more words that begin with a preposition and end with a noun or pronoun

3. The noun or pronoun at the end of a prepositional phrase is called the object of the preposition.

4. A prepositional phrase includes the preposition, the object of the preposition and all the words in between.

5. Can you have more than one prepositional phrase in a sentence? Yes

### **Activity B**

1. Grandmother's house is by the woods. **woods**

2. I like taking trips with Mom and Dad. **Mom, Dad**

3. That song is from a Thanksgiving book. **book**

4. We had dinner at the table. **table**

5. We saw a deer in the forest. **forest**

6. Grandpa took us for a walk. **walk**

7. We read a poem by Robert Frost. **Robert Frost**

8. Jane took her coat from the closet. **closet**

9. Mom said we would go home in a minute. **minute**

(Scroll down for a complete list of prepositions.)

## Most Commonly Used Prepositions

about  
above  
across  
after  
against  
along  
among  
around  
at  
before  
behind  
below  
beneath  
beside  
between  
by  
down  
during  
except  
for  
from  
in  
in front of  
inside  
instead of  
into  
like  
near  
of  
off  
on  
onto  
on top of  
out of  
outside  
over  
past  
since  
through  
to  
toward  
under  
underneath  
until

up  
upon  
with  
within  
without

## Complete List of Prepositions

aboard  
about  
above  
across  
after  
against  
along  
amid  
among  
anti  
around  
as  
at  
before  
behind  
below  
beneath  
beside  
besides  
between  
beyond  
but  
by  
concerning  
considering  
despite  
down  
during  
except  
excepting  
excluding  
following  
for  
from  
in  
inside

into  
like  
minus  
near  
of  
off  
on  
onto  
opposite  
outside  
over  
past  
per  
plus  
regarding  
round  
save  
since  
than  
through  
to  
toward  
towards  
under  
underneath  
unlike  
until  
up  
upon  
versus  
via  
with  
within  
without