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PREPOSITIONS

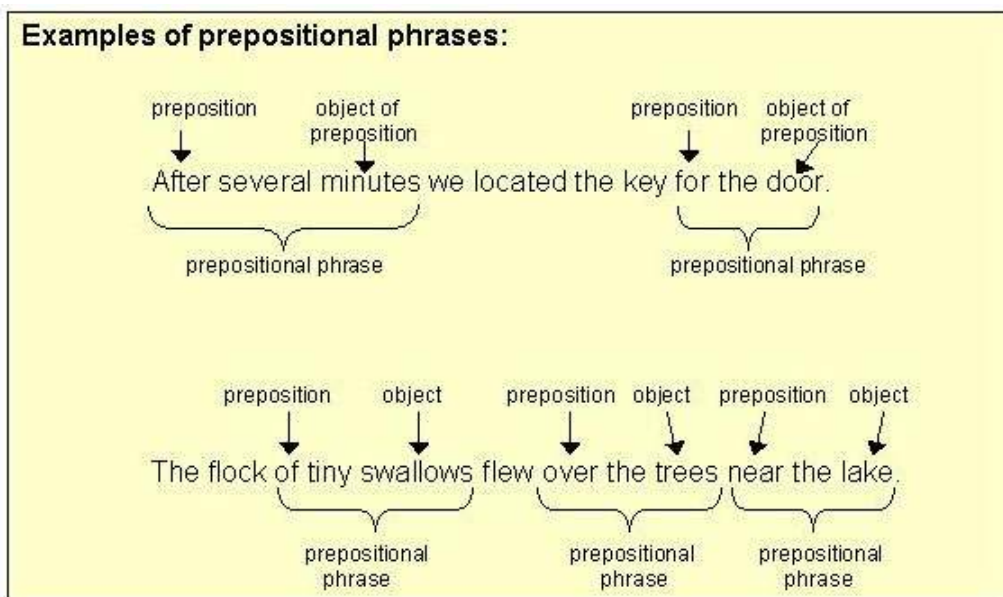
Prepositions are words which begin prepositional phrases.

A **prepositional phrase** is a group of words containing a *preposition*, a [noun](#) or [pronoun](#) *object of the preposition*, and any *modifiers of the object*.

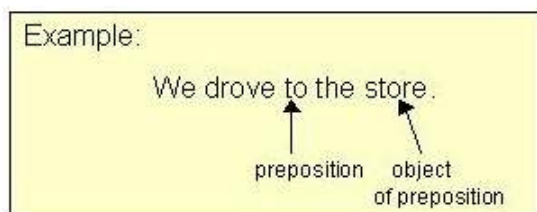
A preposition sits in front of (is “pre-positioned” before) its object.

The following words are the most commonly used prepositions:

<i>about</i>	<i>below</i>	<i>excepting</i>	<i>off</i>	<i>toward</i>
<i>above</i>	<i>beneath</i>	<i>for</i>	<i>on</i>	<i>under</i>
<i>across</i>	<i>beside(s)</i>	<i>from</i>	<i>onto</i>	<i>underneath</i>
<i>after</i>	<i>between</i>	<i>in</i>	<i>out</i>	<i>until</i>
<i>against</i>	<i>beyond</i>	<i>in front of</i>	<i>outside</i>	<i>up</i>
<i>along</i>	<i>but</i>	<i>inside</i>	<i>over</i>	<i>upon</i>
<i>among</i>	<i>by</i>	<i>in spite of</i>	<i>past</i>	<i>up to</i>
<i>around</i>	<i>concerning</i>	<i>instead of</i>	<i>regarding</i>	<i>with</i>
<i>at</i>	<i>despite</i>	<i>into</i>	<i>since</i>	<i>within</i>
<i>because of</i>	<i>down</i>	<i>like</i>	<i>through</i>	<i>without</i>
<i>before</i>	<i>during</i>	<i>near</i>	<i>throughout</i>	<i>with regard to</i>
<i>behind</i>	<i>except</i>	<i>of</i>	<i>to</i>	<i>with respect to</i>

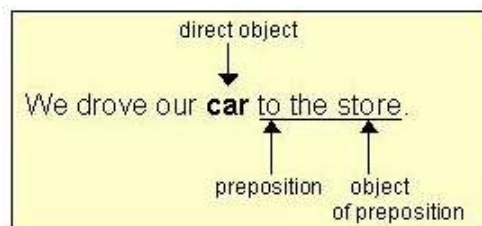


It is useful to locate prepositional phrases in sentences since any noun or pronoun within the prepositional phrase must be the preposition’s object and, therefore, cannot be misidentified as a verb’s [direct object](#).



To the store is a prepositional phrase.

Store is the object of the preposition to, not the direct object of the verb **drove**.

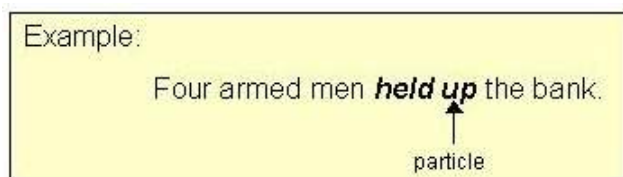


Car is the direct object of the verb **drove**.

To the grocery store is a prepositional phrase.

NOTE:

A word that looks like a preposition but is actually part of a verb is called a particle.



Held up is a verb meaning “to rob.”

Therefore, **up** is not a preposition, and **bank** is not the object of a preposition.

Instead, **bank** is the direct object of the verb **held up**.

To avoid confusing **prepositions** with **particles**, test by moving the word (*up*) and words following it to the front of the sentence:

Up the bank four armed men held.

If the resulting sentence does not make sense, then the word belongs with the verb and is a particle, not a preposition.

Note the difference:



Example A:

We ran **up the hill**.

Test: **Up the hill** we ran.

The resulting sentence makes sense. Therefore, **up** is a preposition.

Example A:

We ran **up the bill**.

Test: **Up the bill** we ran. **XXX**

The resulting sentence does not make sense. Therefore, **up** is a particle in this sentence.

The following examples illustrate the difference between prepositions and particles:

He came **by the office** in a big hurry. (*by* = preposition)

He **came by** his fortune honestly. (*by* = particle)

She turned **up that street**. (*up* = preposition)

She **turned up** her nose. (*up* = particle)

Tom lived **down the street**. (*down* = preposition)

We finally **lived down** that incident. (*down* = particle)

Some other examples of particles:

give in
go in for
look up

turn in
put in for
make up

pull through
bring up
look over

wore out
found out

broke up
blow up