PREPOSITIONS

Close your eyes and visualize each of these sentences as they are read out loud.

The package under the tree is mine.
   The package in the tree is mine.
   The package near the tree is mine.

How are these three sentences different from each other? Yes, in each sentence the position of the package is different. It has moved to a different place.

Now visualize these sentences:

   I will see you before lunch.
   I will see you during lunch.
   I will see you after lunch.

What changes? Right! The time when I will see you changes. It is at a different time.

These are the words that were changed in these sentences: under, in, near, before, during, after. These words are called prepositions, and that is the new part of speech we are going to learn.

HOW TO FIND A PREPOSITION:
First of all, remember to find the nouns, articles, adjectives, and pronouns before you do anything else. Then, looking among the words left over, find the prepositions. It's easier than you think! Almost all prepositions will fit into the following little sentence (it's very handy, so memorize it!).

"THE MOUSE GOES ___________ THE BOX (OR BOXES)."

Take each preposition that was used in the sentences above, and put it in the blank of the "mouse-box" sentence. It works for every one of those prepositions except during, doesn't it? The "Mouse-Box" sentence will help you find most prepositions, but what about the ones that don't fit?
Some prepositions won't fit into the "mouse-box" sentence. There are nine very common ones, which may seem like a lot to remember. To help you with this, here's a little memory trick. Remember: you may not be able to remember them, **BUT AL DOES!**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>B = but</th>
<th>A = as</th>
<th>D = during</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>U = until</td>
<td>L = like</td>
<td>O = of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T = than</td>
<td></td>
<td>E = except</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>S = since</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PREPOSITIONAL PHRASES:** A word may fit into the "mouse-box" sentence and look like a preposition, but **IT ISN'T A PREPOSITION UNLESS IT'S IN A PREPOSITIONAL PHRASE.** To find the prepositional phrase, first you find the word you think is a preposition. Then you say the preposition and ask, "What?" The answer you are looking for is a noun or pronoun that answers that question. That noun or pronoun is called the **OBJECT OF THE PREPOSITION.** Each prepositional phrase will begin with a preposition, and end with a noun or pronoun. If there are any words between the preposition and its object, they are modifiers (like articles & adjectives) for that object.

In the six sentences on page one, the prepositional phrases are "under the tree," "in the tree," "near the tree," "before lunch," "during lunch," and "after lunch." The objects of the prepositions are "tree" and "lunch."

**DIAGRAMING:** Sentence diagraming is a tool we use to help us understand ideas which might be hard. We're going to start learning about diagraming by diagraming prepositional phrases. A diagramed prepositional phrase looks like this:

```
preposition

/\object of the preposition
   /\    /
  /\   /\   /
 /\  /\  /\  /
```

Do you understand what this is?
It will be on your homework (hint! hint!)

If the object of the preposition has modifiers, they "hang" on diagonal lines from the line with the object.

**PREPOSITIONAL PHRASES HAVE JUST ONE JOB TO DO: THEY ARE ALWAYS MODIFIERS.**

**NOTE:** A few prepositions consist of more than one word. They are **because of, in spite of, according to, instead of,** and **out of.** If you find one of these prepositions, label it "pp" with "wings" (as you do with proper nouns of more than one word).
PREPOSITIONS: EXERCISE #1

NAME: _________________________________________________________

WHAT TO DO: Write N over the common nouns, PN over the proper nouns, ART over the articles, ADJ over the adjectives, PP over the prepositions, and put parentheses around the prepositional phrases. Then, on the back or on a separate sheet of paper, diagram the prepositional phrases in every sentence. Sentence one has been done for you as an example.

1. (On vacation) everybody (in the family) relaxes.

2. A vacationer can think about different things for a change.

3. He can relax and renew himself on vacation.

4. Time spent on vacation is never a waste of time.

5. On warm summer days many bright solutions to problems have been dreamed up during a little snooze in a hammock.

All the underlined words in this exercise are doing the same job. After you get all the prepositional phrases diagramed, look at the notes for this unit. Write on the line below the name of this job.
PREPOSITIONS: EXERCISE #2

NAME: _________________________________________________________

WHAT TO DO: Write N over the common nouns, PN over the proper nouns, ART
over the articles, ADJ over the adjectives, PP over the prepositions, and put
parentheses around the prepositional phrases. Then, on the back or on a separate
sheet of paper, diagram the prepositional phrases in every sentence.

1. Our family is going on a trip during spring vacation.

2. We are driving to the lake in our new camper.

3. Family vacations have been improved since the invention
   of the camper.

4. Our camper has four beds in it and a little bathroom at the back.

5. Now our camping trips are fun for the whole family, thanks to our
   camper!

A PREPOSITIONAL PHRASE BEGINS WITH A PREPOSITION AND ENDS
WITH A _________________________________________________________

(over)
**DIRECTIONS:** The underlined words in these sentences are doing one of two jobs. Choosing your answer from the jobs shown below, write what job each underlined word is doing.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SENTENCE #</th>
<th>WORD</th>
<th>JOB</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>trip</td>
<td>________________________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>new</td>
<td>________________________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>invention</td>
<td>______________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>little</td>
<td>________________________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>camping</td>
<td>________________________________</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PREPOSITIONS: EXERCISE #3

NAME: _________________________________________________________

WHAT TO DO: Write N over the common nouns, PN over the proper nouns, ART over the articles, ADJ over the adjectives, PP over the prepositions, and put parentheses around the prepositional phrases. Then, on the back or on a separate sheet of paper, diagram the prepositional phrases in every sentence.

1. On my seventh birthday my mom and dad gave me a wonderful present.

2. It was a trip to Boston, Massachusetts!

3. On our first day we went on a walking tour on the Freedom Trail.

4. My favorite place on the Freedom Trail was the small wooden house of Paul Revere.

5. Paul Revere was the American hero who rode through the night so he could warn the people of the arrival of the British soldiers.

A PRONOUN IS A WORD THAT _______________________________________

ARTICLES & ADJECTIVES DO THE JOB OF ___________________________
**DIRECTIONS:** The underlined words in these sentences are doing one of two jobs. Choosing your answer from the jobs shown below, write what job each underlined word is doing.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SENTENCE #</th>
<th>WORD</th>
<th>JOB</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>seventh</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Boston, Massachusetts</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>walking</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>wooden</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>night</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Below are three prepositional phrases, and then a sentence. Choose which prepositional phrase goes into each space. In the spaces provided below, write the prepositional phrase that you think fits.

- of my desk
- on the corner
- for a minute

I leaned my elbow ____________________________

Preposition phrase #1

______________________________ and rested my eyes

Preposition phrase #2

Preposition phrase #3

Now you're going to see a bunch of prepositional phrases. On a separate sheet of paper, write a paragraph or two using as many of these prepositional phrases as you can. Remember: when writing a paragraph, all the sentences in it have to go together. If you change the place or the time something is happening in, you need to start a new paragraph. Any paragraph you write should be at least three sentences long. You may add other prepositional phrases if you think you need them.

- to the beach
- in the truck
- of his tail
- for her toys

- from her dad
- with lunch
- on the back seat

- in the sky
- of the ocean
- on the sand
- in her bucket

If you want to find out how well you did on this exercise, look at "How did I do?" on the other side of this page.
PLAYING WITH WORDS: UNIT #4

How did I do?

Student Name: __________________________________________________

1. The sentence should say, "I leaned my elbow on the corner of my desk and rested my eyes for a minute." If you got all the prepositional phrases in the right place, you get 3 points. If any of your prepositional phrases are in the wrong place, you get 1 point.

2. Does your paragraph have at least 3 sentences? If so, you get 1 point.

3. Does your paragraph make sense? If so, you get 1 point.

4. If you used all 11 prepositional phrases, you get 5 points. If you used 8 or 9 prepositional phrases, you get 4 points. If you used 6 or 7 prepositional phrases, you get 3 points. If you used 4 or 5 prepositional phrases, you get 2 points. If you used 2 or 3 prepositional phrases, you get 1 point. If you only used one, you get zero.

Add it all up into your GRAND TOTAL: =========

If you got 10 points, you're ABSOLUTELY AMAZING!
If you got 9 points, you're WONDERFUL!
If you got 8 points, you're GREAT!
If you got 7 points, you're DOING A GOOD JOB.
If you got 6 points, you're MAKING A GOOD EFFORT.
TEST: PREPOSITIONS

NAME: _________________________________________________________

POINTS EARNED: _______ out of 115 ______ LEVEL:______________________

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(over)
SHORT ANSWER:

1. Pronouns are words that

__________________________________________________________________________.

2. Adjectives are words that

__________________________________________________________________________.

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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
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<td>vacation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>every</td>
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PREPOSITIONS

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**D** = during  
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**S** = since

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PP N PRO PP ART N
1. (On vacation) everybody (in the family) relaxes.
   On vacation in family

ART N PP ADJ N PP ART N
2. A vacationer can think (about different things) (for a change).
   about things for change

PRO
3. He can relax and renew himself (on vacation).
   on vacation

N PP N ART N PP N
4. Time spent (on vacation) is never a waste (of time).
   on vacation of time

PP ADJ ADJ N ADJ ADJ N PP N
5. (On warm summer days) many bright solutions (to problems) have been dreamed up (during a little snooze) (in a hammock).
   On days to problems during a little in a

All the underlined words in this exercise are doing the same job. After you get all the prepositional phrases diagramed, look at the notes for this unit. Write on the line below the name of this job.

______________________________________

object of the preposition
PREPOSITIONS: EXERCISE #2

NAME: _________________________________________________________

WHAT TO DO: Write N over the common nouns, PN over the proper nouns, ART over the articles, ADJ over the adjectives, PP over the prepositions, and put parentheses around the prepositional phrases. Then, on the back or on a separate sheet of paper, diagram the prepositional phrases in every sentence.

1. Our family is going (on a trip)(during spring vacation).

(diagram keys are on the back)

2. We are driving (to the lake)(in our new camper).

3. Family vacations have been improved(since the invention)

(of the camper).

4. Our camper has four beds (in it) and a little bathroom(at the back).

5. Now our camping trips are fun (for the whole family), thanks

(to our camper)!

A PREPOSITIONAL PHRASE BEGINS WITH A PREPOSITION AND ENDS WITH A noun or pronoun.
**DIRECTIONS:** The underlined words in these sentences are doing one of two jobs. Choosing your answer from the jobs shown below, write what job each underlined word is doing.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MODIFIER</th>
<th>OBJECT OF THE PREPOSITION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SENTENCE #</td>
<td>WORD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>trip</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>new</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>invention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>little</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>camping</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. on trip a during vacation
during spring

2. to lake the in camper
in our new

3. since invention the of camper
of the the

4. in it at back
at the

5. for family the whole to camper
for our
PREPOSITIONS: EXERCISE #3

NAME: _________________________________________________________

WHAT TO DO: Write N over the common nouns, PN over the proper nouns, ART over the articles, ADJ over the adjectives, PP over the prepositions, and put parentheses around the prepositional phrases. Then, on the back or on a separate sheet of paper, diagram the prepositional phrases in every sentence.

PP ADJ ADJ N ADJ N N PRO ART ADJ
1. (On my seventh birthday) my mom and dad gave me a wonderful N present.

PRO ART N PP ______ PN _______
2. It was a trip (to Boston, Massachusetts)!

PP ADJ ADJ N PRO PP ART ADJ N PP ART
3. (On our first day) we went (on a walking tour)(on the PN ______ Freedom Trail).

ADJ ADJ N PP ART— PN— ART ADJ ADJ
4. My favorite place (on the Freedom Trail) was the small wooden N PP — PN—— house (of Paul Revere).

—— PN—— ART ADJ N PRO PP ART N
5. Paul Revere was the American hero who rode (through the night) PRO ART N PP ART N PP ART ADJ so he could warn the people (of the arrival)(of the British N soldiers).

A PRONOUN IS A WORD THAT ______ takes the place of a noun.

ARTICLES & ADJECTIVES DO THE JOB OF ______ modifier.

(over)
**DIRECTIONS:** The underlined words in these sentences are doing one of two jobs. Choosing your answer from the jobs shown below, write white job each underlined word is doing.

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<tr>
<th>SENTENCE #</th>
<th>WORD</th>
<th>JOB</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>seventh</td>
<td><strong>modifier</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Boston, Massachusetts</td>
<td>object of the preposition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>walking</td>
<td><strong>modifier</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>wooden</td>
<td><strong>modifier</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>night</td>
<td>object of the preposition</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. On my **seventh** birthday
2. to **Boston, MA**
3. On our **first** tour on a walking **Freedom Trail**
4. on **Freedom Trail** of **Paul Revere**
5. through **night** of **arrival** of **soldiers**
TEST: PREPOSITIONS

NAME: _________________________________________________________

POINTS EARNED: _____ out of 115         LEVEL: ___________________

WHAT TO DO: Write N over the common nouns, PN over the proper nouns, ART over the articles, ADJ over the adjectives, PP over the prepositions, and put parentheses around the prepositional phrases. Then, on the back or on a separate sheet of paper, diagram the prepositional phrases in every sentence.

1. Ask most adults (about their favorite memories) (of their childhood), and they will probably tell you (about a family vacation).

2. Once (on a rainy day) (during vacation) my brother won our family's money (in a game) (of Tripoli).

3. Groans (of agony) (from Dad) and crows (of joy) (from my brother) came (with every hand) (of the cards).

4. (After the game) the family (on bended knee) begged my brother (for money).

5. The good part (of the whole thing) was that we were only playing (with imaginary money)!

SHORT ANSWER:
1. Pronouns are words that take the place of nouns.

2. Adjectives are words that modify nouns or pronouns.
**DIRECTIONS:** The underlined words in these sentences are doing one of two jobs. Choosing your answer from the jobs shown below, write what job each underlined word is doing.

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>their</td>
<td>modifier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>vacation</td>
<td>object of the preposition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>every</td>
<td>modifier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>bended</td>
<td>modifier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>thing</td>
<td>object of the preposition</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score Range</th>
<th>Result</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>115 - 103</td>
<td>Mastery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>102 - 92</td>
<td>Superiority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>91 - 80</td>
<td>Competency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>79 - 69</td>
<td>Probationary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>68 and below</td>
<td>Repeat</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>