



PREPOSITIONAL PHRASES

Prepositional phrases add valuable information to sentences. However, they may keep you from seeing the basic parts of a sentence, like the subject and verb.

What are the subject and verb in this long sentence?



Under these circumstances one of the fellows drove to the North Woods during the first week of his vacation.

If you cross out all the prepositional phrases like this:



~~Under these circumstances one of the fellows drove to the North Woods during the first week of his vacation.~~

then you have only two words left--the subject and the verb. And even in short sentences like the following ones, you may pick the wrong word as the subject if you do not cross out the prepositional phrases first.

One of my friends lives in Chicago.
Most of the team went on the trip.

The subject and verb are **never** in a prepositional phrase. Learning to spot prepositional phrases helps you see the structure of a sentence more clearly.

A prepositional phrase begins with a preposition and ends with a noun--a person, place or thing. Prepositional phrases add description or answer questions like where or when. Some of the more common 50 English prepositions are used in phrases below:

on our own
upon the table
above the mantel
over the river
against the wall
at home
past the corner
in time
beside the road
beneath the surface
through the woods

from the president
to the moon
into the dark
toward the mountain
like the sky
around the bend
across the country
within the district
under water
with me
inside the school

below ground
of them
among the crowd
without promise
except them
during vacation
before morning
until dusk
behind the bushes
by the sea
near the house

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