

17

Prepositions (Preposition or Adverb?) • Practice 1

Preposition or Adverb? Some words can be either prepositions or adverbs, depending on how they are used. A preposition will always be followed by a noun or pronoun used as an object. Adverbs modify verbs and have no objects.

Prepositions	Adverbs
She peered <i>across</i> the lake.	Mary will look <i>across</i> .
The note is <i>inside</i> the box.	Please wait <i>inside</i> .
The car streaked <i>past</i> us.	The prisoner slipped <i>past</i> .

Exercise 1 Distinguishing Between Prepositions and Adverbs. Write whether the underlined word in each sentence is a *preposition* or an *adverb*.

EXAMPLE: My cousin wriggled and tried to slide through. adverb

- I casually strolled through the entrance. _____
- Around our house we always have excitement. _____
- We were told to travel along this road for two miles. _____
- From the bridge Susan tried to look underneath. _____
- Do you think you can walk past the guards? _____
- Behind the closet is a secret passageway. _____
- After ten hours of work Tom was finally through. _____
- Walk around to see if you can spot mother. _____
- An angry crowd surged near the governor. _____
- Pass along until you reach the sentry at the gate. _____

Exercise 2 Adding Prepositions and Adverbs to Sentences. The sentences below are grouped in pairs. For each pair, select a word that fits appropriately and write it in the spaces provided. Label the adverb *A* and the preposition *P*.

EXAMPLE: Walk *over*. A
Throw the ball over the fence. P

- Your best friend is _____ the phone. _____
 - Keep your jacket _____.
- Please come _____.
 - We have a canopy _____ the window. _____
- Keep searching. You will find the recipe _____.
 - The emergency hose is _____ the radiator. _____
- I hope to see them _____.
 - The curio shop happens to be _____ the corner. _____
- Don't forget to turn the lights _____.
 - Paint has begun to chip _____ the wall. _____

17

Prepositions (Preposition or Adverb?) • Practice 2

Exercise 1 **Distinguishing Between Prepositions and Adverbs.** In each of the following pairs of sentences, one sentence contains a word used as a preposition and the other contains the same word used as an adverb. Find that word in each pair of sentences and circle it. If the word acts as a preposition, underline the prepositional phrase. If the word acts as an adverb, write *adverb* in the blank.

EXAMPLE: We found the keys in the car. _____
 They came in and dinner began. adverb

1. The rabbit would not come near. _____
 The rose bush is near the white fence. _____
2. You will find the house if you continue past the traffic light. _____
 The old man would often walk past in the evening. _____
3. Turn the lights on before it gets dark. _____
 The shopping center is two blocks farther on the right. _____
4. Several vultures soared around gracefully. _____
 Go completely around the traffic circle. _____
5. He and his baggage were thrown out the door. _____
 We all went out to celebrate our parents' anniversary. _____
6. When I saw him, I just walked on by. _____
 The packages were left by the back door. _____
7. Please plan to get here before noon. _____
 Have you ever been here before? _____
8. We walked to the meadow and strolled about for an hour. _____
 It has been about three hours since I talked to Ted. _____
9. The kite quickly rose above the trees. _____
 "I live in the apartment above," said Jason.
10. "Move along quickly now," said the guard. _____
 The daffodils were planted along the sidewalk. _____

Writing Application **Writing Sentences With Prepositional Phrases.** Write five sentences of your own, each containing a prepositional phrase that begins with one of the prepositions listed below. Underline the preposition and circle its object.

EXAMPLE: instead of
Voters elected a newcomer instead of the incumbent.

1. against

2. ahead of

3. among

4. because of

5. beneath
