Prepositions and Prepositional Phrases

Overview
An important element of English sentences is the prepositional phrase. It consists of a preposition (prep) and its object (o). The object of a preposition is a noun or pronoun.

(s) = subject of sentence; (v) = verb; (prep) = preposition; (o) = object

Example: The student (s) studies (v) in (prep) the library (o of prep)
→ in the library is a prepositional phrase.

Example: We (s) enjoyed (v) the party (o) at (prep) your house (o of prep)
→ at your house is a prepositional phrase.

Example: We went to the zoo (place) in the afternoon (time).
In most English sentences, “place” comes before “time.”

Example: In the afternoon, we went swimming.
Sometimes a prepositional phrase comes at the beginning of a sentence

Common Prepositions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>About</th>
<th>Before</th>
<th>During</th>
<th>Out</th>
<th>Until</th>
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Prepositions with Adjectives and Verbs

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<tr>
<th>Be absent from</th>
<th>Believe in</th>
<th>Be capable of</th>
<th>Be convinced of</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Be accused of</td>
<td>Blame for</td>
<td>Care about/for</td>
<td>Be covered with</td>
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<td>Be acquainted with</td>
<td>Be blessed with</td>
<td>Be committed to</td>
<td>Be dedicated to</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Be accused of</td>
<td>Be bored with/by</td>
<td>Be connected to</td>
<td>Be devoted to</td>
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Be divorced from  Hope for  Opposed to  Succeed in
Be envious of  Be innocent of  Be prepared for  Take advantage of
Be excited about  Be interested in  Be proud of  Take care of
Be familiar with  Be involved in  Be qualified for  Talk about
Be filled with  Be jealous of  Be remembered by  Be terrified of/by
Be friendly to/with  Be known for  Be responsible for  Be tired of/by
Be frightened of  Be located in  Be satisfied with  Be upset with
Be gone from  Be made of/ from  Be scared of  Be used to
Be grateful to/ for  Be married to  Stare at  Vote for
Hide from  Object to  Substitute for  Be worried about

Practice Exercises

Exercise 1
Identifying Prepositions. Underline the prepositional phrases in the following sentences. Identify the preposition (prep) and the noun that is used as the object of the preposition (o of prep).

a) Grasshoppers destroyed the wheat in the field.
   b) The waiter cleared the dirty dishes from our table.
   c) I parked my car in the garage.
   d) Trees fell during the violent storm.
   e) Cowboys depended on horses for transportation.
   f) We walked to the park after class.

Exercise 2
Sentence Elements: Underline the subjects (s), verbs (v), objects of verbs (o), and prepositional phrases (PP) in the following sentences. A transitive verb (vt) is followed by an object, whereas intransitive verbs (vi) are not followed by an object.

a) Alex (s) needs (vt) new batteries (o) for his camera (PP)
   b) Fireworks (s) exploded (vi) in the sky. (PP)
   c) Sally wore her blue suit to the meeting.
   d) Adel needs to study for his tests that are coming up.
   e) Blake went mountain climbing with his friends.
   f) Monica wore her scarf to school.
Exercise 3
Complete the sentences with appropriate prepositions.
   a) Do you believe _________ ghosts?
   b) Anthony is engaged _________ my cousin
   c) Ms. Ballas substituted _________ our regular teacher.
   d) I can’t distinguish one twin _________ the other.
   e) Max is known _______________ his honesty.
   f) I’m worried ________ this problem.
   g) I don’t agree _____________ you.
   h) I’m worried _____________ this problem.

Answers

Exercise 3
a) In   d) From  g) With
b) With  e) For   h) about
   c) For   f) About