

Level A

Overview

Objective #1: Students will learn to find all the prepositional phrases in any sentence and will place parentheses around them.

Note to "Grammar Nerds": Don't worry if, at this level, your student occasionally places parentheses around infinitives ("to" plus a verb, such as to run or to fly). Ignore any marked infinitives until Level D, typically 10th grade. If you'd like to elaborate further with them, simply tell them that they've marked an infinitive but that you don't expect them to know what an infinitive is at this stage.

Objective #2: Students will learn to find compound prepositional phrases. For instance,

They were playing **(with Bill and Mary)**.

Rationale: Prepositional phrases are relatively easy to learn. Research shows that over a third of all words are in prepositional phrases (although this percentage will be smaller in the writing of a typical third grader). If a student's ultimate purpose is to be able to explain the grammatical purpose of every word in every sentence, identifying all the prepositional phrases will have them well on their way! Being able to identify the objects of prepositions will also help prevent annoying errors such as subject/verb agreement. For instance, which sentence is correct?

- A. One of the class members has won an award.
- B. One of the class members have won an award.

If you know that **of the class members** is a prepositional phrase, and if you put it in parentheses like this,

One **(of the class members)** ...

Then you'll easily see that the rest of the sentence should be written like this,

One has won an award.

Doesn't this simplify things? We think so, too!

Preparation for Level A

Preparation is easy using this approach!

- Before your school year begins, print the "Preposition Charts" to hang on your wall or refrigerator.

Print the charts on pages 3-4. Optionally, laminate them or insert them in plastic sheet protectors to make them more durable.

You don't need to require your children to memorize a list of these prepositions; simply seeing them plastered on a wall should do the trick! However, if simply seeing the charts doesn't seem to help them, try teaching them the "Preposition Song" (see page 5).

Note to "Grammar Nerds": There are over one hundred prepositions, but the ones we've listed are simply the most common ones your children will see.

Common Prepositions

aboard	before	except	onto	underneath
about	behind	for	outside	until
above	below	from	over	unto
across	beneath	in	past	up
after	beside	inside	since	upon
against	besides	into	through	with
along	between	like	throughout	within
amid	beyond	near	to	without
among	by	of	toward	
around	down	off	towards	
at	during	on	under	

As you begin teaching what a preposition is, it might be helpful to explain it like my teacher used to. A preposition is anything an angel could do to a cloud.

The angel can fly **above** the cloud, **around** the cloud, **beside** the cloud, **inside** the cloud, **through** the cloud, **under** the cloud, etc.

Of course, this might not work in every situation, but it's a fun way to introduce the concept to children.

Below you'll find an overview schedule for teaching Level A grammar over one school year, handy for printing and sticking with your lesson plans.

Oh, and Mom... don't be afraid to participate with your children each day! It's fun!

Prepositions - Chart 1

aboard

about

above

across

after

against

along

amid

among

around

at

before

behind

below

beneath

beside

besides

between

beyond

by

down

during

except

for

from

in

Prepositions - Chart 2

inside

throughout

into

to

like

toward

near

towards

of

under

off

underneath

on

until

onto

unto

outside

up

over

upon

past

with

since

within

through

without

Preposition Song

(Sung to the tune of "Yankee Doodle")

Aboard, about, above, across

Against, along, around

Amid, among, after, at

Except, for, during, down

Behind, below, beneath, beside

Between, before, beyond

By, in, from, off, on, over, of

Until, unto, upon

Under, underneath, since, up

Like, near, past, throughout, through

With, within, without, outside

Toward, inside, into, to

Source: <http://www.misscantillon.com/Preposition%20Song.htm>

Tune: <http://www.8notes.com/scores/10146.asp>

Week	Level A What to Teach
1	Give Worksheet A1. Talk about what prepositional phrases are, then have the students add as many prepositional phrases as possible to this sentence. Vote on the nicest sentence, the silliest sentence, the longest sentence, etc. Optional: Repeat this daily if desired, or allow the students to invent their own sentences.
2	Give Worksheet A2. The students will circle every preposition. You can do one sentence per day or all in one day.
3	Give Worksheet A3. The students will circle every preposition. You can do one sentence per day or all in one day
4	Give Worksheet A4. The students put parentheses around all the prepositional phrases.
5	Give Worksheet A5. The students put parentheses around all the prepositional phrases.
6	Give Worksheet A6. The students put parentheses around all the prepositional phrases.
7	Give Worksheet A7. The students put parentheses around all the prepositional phrases.
8	Give Worksheet A8. The students put parentheses around all the prepositional phrases.
9	Give Worksheet A9. The students put parentheses around all the prepositional phrases.
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Name _____

Worksheet A1

Add as many prepositional phrases as possible to this sentence. Vote on the nicest sentence, the silliest sentence, the longest sentence, etc.

Jesus healed the lame man, and the man walked home.

Worksheet A2

Circle the prepositions.

¹I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

²My soul shall make her boast in the LORD: the humble shall hear thereof, and be glad.

³O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together.

⁴I sought the LORD, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears.

⁵They looked unto him, and were lightened: and their faces were not ashamed.

Psalm 34:1-5

Worksheet A3

Circle the prepositions.

⁶This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles.

⁷The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.

⁸O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him.

⁹O fear the LORD, ye his saints: for there is no want to them that fear him.

¹⁰The young lions do lack, and suffer hunger: but they that seek the LORD shall not want any good thing.

Psalm 34:6-10

Worksheet A4

Put parentheses around all the prepositional phrases.

¹¹Come, ye children, hearken unto me: I will teach you the fear of the LORD.

¹²What man is he that desireth life, and loveth many days, that he may see good?

¹³Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile.

¹⁴Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it.

¹⁵The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry.

¹⁶The face of the LORD is against them that do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.

Psalm 34:11-16

Worksheet A5

Put parentheses around all the prepositional phrases.

¹⁷The righteous cry, and the LORD heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles.

¹⁸The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.

¹⁹Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.

²⁰He keepeth all his bones: not one of them is broken.

²¹Evil shall slay the wicked: and they that hate the righteous shall be desolate.

²²The LORD redeemeth the soul of his servants: and none of them that trust in him shall be desolate.

Psalm 34:17-22

Worksheet A6

Put parentheses around all the prepositional phrases.

¹In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

²And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

³And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.

⁴And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness.

⁵And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.

Genesis 1:1-5

Worksheet A7

Put parentheses around all the prepositional phrases.

²I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

³Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

⁴Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.

⁵Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;

⁶And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

Exodus 20:2-6

Worksheet A8

Put parentheses around all the prepositional phrases.

¹²And the Midianites and the Amalekites and all the children of the east lay along in the valley like grasshoppers for multitude; and their camels were without number, as the sand by the sea side for multitude.

¹³And when Gideon was come, behold, there was a man that told a dream unto his fellow, and said, Behold, I dreamed a dream, and, lo, a cake of barley bread tumbled into the host of Midian, and came unto a tent, and smote it that it fell, and overturned it, that the tent lay along.

¹⁴And his fellow answered and said, This is nothing else save the sword of Gideon the son of Joash, a man of Israel: for into his hand hath God delivered Midian, and all the host.

¹⁵And it was so, when Gideon heard the telling of the dream, and the interpretation thereof, that he worshipped, and returned into the host of Israel, and said, Arise; for the LORD hath delivered into your hand the host of Midian.

¹⁶And he divided the three hundred men into three companies, and he put a trumpet in every man's hand, with empty pitchers, and lamps within the pitchers.

Judges 7:12-16

Worksheet A9

Put parentheses around all the prepositional phrases.

¹In the five and twentieth year of our captivity, in the beginning of the year, in the tenth day of the month, in the fourteenth year after that the city was smitten, in the selfsame day the hand of the LORD was upon me, and brought me thither.

²In the visions of God brought he me into the land of Israel, and set me upon a very high mountain, by which was as the frame of a city on the south.

³And he brought me thither, and, behold, there was a man, whose appearance was like the appearance of brass, with a line of flax in his hand, and a measuring reed; and he stood in the gate.

⁴And the man said unto me, Son of man, behold with thine eyes, and hear with thine ears, and set thine heart upon all that I shall shew thee; for to the intent that I might shew them unto thee art thou brought hither: declare all that thou seest to the house of Israel.

⁵And behold a wall on the outside of the house round about, and in the man's hand a measuring reed of six cubits long by the cubit and an hand breadth: so he measured the breadth of the building, one reed; and the height, one reed.

Ezekiel 40:1-5