

Improve your English for students

Alps Academy

<https://www.alps.academy/improve-english-chinese/>

Prepositional Phrases

Alps Academy

noun phrases

- A noun phrase consists of a noun and its modifiers.
- Modifiers include articles, adjectives, and other elements that provide more information about the noun.
 - **The happy cat**
 - **Two delicious slices of pizza**

last week

verb phrases

- A verb phrase includes the main verb and its auxiliary (helping) verbs, if any. It represents the action or state of being in a sentence.
 - **Is studying** for the exam
 - **Will have completed** the project

next lesson

prepositional phrases

prepositional phrases

A prepositional phrase **begins with a preposition** and includes a noun (or pronoun) (which is) the object of the preposition.

On the table

- *Preposition:* **On**
- *Object :* **The table**

prepositional phrases

It provides information about the relationship of the noun to the rest of the sentence.

- _____ on the table
 - so _____ is **on** the table
- _____ under the bridge
 - so _____ is **under** the bridge

prepositional phrases

It provides information about the relationship of the noun to the rest of the sentence.

- *the key* is on the table
 - so *the key* is **on** the table
- *the dog* is under the bridge
 - so *the dog* is **under** the bridge

sentence subjects:
the key
the dog

prepositional phrases

It provides information about the relationship of the noun to the rest of the sentence.

- *the book* is on the table
 - so *the book* is **on** the table
- *the river* runs under the bridge
 - so *the river* is **under** the bridge

sentence subjects:
the book
the river

structure of prepositional phrases

prepositional phrase = preposition + the object

On the table

Preposition: on

Object of the Preposition: the table

“The book is on the table.”

In this example, “on” is the preposition, and “the table” is the object of the preposition.

prepositional phrase = preposition + the object

At the park

Preposition: at

Object of the Preposition: the park

“We had a picnic at the park.”

In this example, “at” is the preposition, and “the park” is the object of the preposition.

prepositional phrase = preposition + the object

Under the bridge

Preposition: under

Object of the Preposition: the bridge

“The river flows under the bridge.”

In this example, “under” is the preposition, and “the bridge” is the object of the preposition.

prepositional phrase = preposition + the object

In the morning

Preposition: in

Object of the Preposition: the morning

“The sun rises brightly in the morning.”

In this example, “in” is the preposition, and “the morning” is the object of the preposition.

prepositional phrase = preposition + the object

With my friends

Preposition: with

Object of the Preposition: my friends

“I enjoy playing with my friends”

In this example, “with” is the preposition, and “my friends” is the object of the preposition.

what are prepositions

<https://www.alps.academy/learn-english-prepositions/>

prepositions

He is in the garden.
She is fond of music

prepositions of place

- on
- in
- at
- under
- below
- above
- beside
- near

prepositions of time

- I have class **at** 3 pm
- I go to the gym **in** the morning
- My birthday is **on** May 20th

prepositions of movement

- She walked **to** the store.
- The cat jumped **over** the fence.
- They ran **across** the field.
- He climbed **up** the tree.
- The ball rolled **down** the hill.

About

Above

Across

After

Against

Along

Amid

Among

Around

At

Before

Behind

Below

Beneath

Beside

Between

Beyond

By

Despite

Down

During

For

From

In

Inside

Into

Near

Of

Off

On

Onto

Out

Outside

Over

Past

Through

Throughout

To

Toward

Under

Underneath

Until

Up

Upon

With

Within

Without

prepositional phrases example sentences

prepositions in sentences

Prepositions show us
where something is,
when it happens, or
how things are connected.

Like words that give directions or
provide information about the position of things.

prepositions in sentences

For example:

- **Location:** The cat is **on** the table.
 - Where is the cat? **On** the table.
- **Time:** We have class **at** 3 PM.
 - When is the class? **At** 3 PM.
- **Direction:** She walked **toward** the park.
 - Which way did she walk? **Toward** the park.
- **Connection:** I went to the store **with** my friends.
 - How did I go to the store? **With** my friends.

1. **About:** She is writing a book about her travels.
2. **Above:** The bird flew above the clouds.
3. **Across:** We walked across the bridge to get to the other side.
4. **After:** We went for ice cream after the movie.
5. **Against:** He leaned against the wall.
6. **Along:** They strolled along the beach at sunset.
7. **Amid:** The flowers bloomed amid the green grass.
8. **Among:** She found her keys among the papers on the desk.
9. **Around:** We sat around the campfire and told stories.
10. **At:** They met at the coffee shop.
11. **Before:** Finish your homework before you go to bed.
12. **Behind:** The car is parked behind the building.

1. **Below:** The treasure chest was hidden below the sand.
2. **Beneath:** The cat found shade beneath the tree.
3. **Beside:** He stood beside his best friend.
4. **Between:** The playground is between the school and the library.
5. **Beyond:** The mountains stretch beyond the horizon.
6. **By:** She sat by the window and enjoyed the view.
7. **Despite:** Despite the rain, we went for a walk.
8. **Down:** The ball rolled down the hill.
9. **During:** We sang songs during the concert.
10. **For:** They have been friends for many years.
11. **From:** I received a letter from my pen pal.
12. **In:** There is a cat in the box.

1. **Inside:** The cookies are inside the jar.
2. **Into:** He jumped into the pool.
3. **Near:** The grocery store is near the park.
4. **Of:** A cup of coffee is on the table.
5. **Off:** The cat jumped off the bed.
6. **On:** The keys are on the counter.
7. **Onto:** She climbed onto the roof.
8. **Out:** We played outside in the garden.
9. **Outside:** It's snowing outside.
10. **Over:** The plane flew over the mountains.
11. **Past:** We walked past the old building.
12. **Through:** We walked through the forest.

1. **Throughout:** She smiled throughout the entire presentation.
2. **To:** They went to the park.
3. **Toward:** We walked toward the city centre.
4. **Under:** The cat is hiding under the bed.
5. **Underneath:** The treasure is underneath the rock.
6. **Until:** They stayed up until midnight.
7. **Up:** She climbed up the stairs.
8. **Upon:** The cat perched upon the roof.
9. **With:** I went to the party with my friends.
10. **Within:** The answer is within the book.
11. **Without:** He managed without any help.

prepositional phrases exercises

Exercise 1: which prepositional phrases could be added to each sentence beginning

- 1. The cat is a) on the field.
- 2. We went for a walk b) between the cushions.
- 3. She sat c) across the country.
- 4. They played soccer d) under the bed.
- 5. The book is e) in the park.
- 6. We travelled f) on the roof.
- 7. I found my keys g) beside her brother.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
a	✓						
b		x					
c			?				
d				?			
e					✓		
f						x	
g							?

Exercise 2: order the sentences that finish with the prepositional phrase

1. the / desk / sitting / at / is / she
2. the / the / blooming / garden / are / flowers / in
3. the / meet / we / fountain / will / by
4. into / the / jumped / he / pool
5. the / under / table / is / hiding / the / cat
6. found / on / my / chair / jacket / I / the
7. the / river / along / walked / they

she is sitting at the desk

Exercise 3: create sentences with the verbs and prepositional phrases

walk	arrive	meet	
find (glasses)	(keys) is	sing (songs)	play (games)

1. We _____ outside the house.
2. The _____ on the kitchen counter.
3. They _____ at the coffee shop.
4. I _____ under the sofa.
5. We _____ during the concert.
6. He _____ along the path.
7. She _____ at the airport.

listening practice

Across the Universe

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cAe1IVDbLf0>

Words are flowing 1 _____ like endless rain 2 _____ a paper cup
They slither while they pass, they slip 3 _____ across the universe
Pools of sorrow waves of joy are drifting through my opened mind
Possessing and caressing me

non-English lyrics

Nothing's going change my world (x4)

Images of broken light which dance 4 _____ me like a million eyes
And call me on and on across the universe
Thoughts meander like a restless wind 5 _____ a letter box
They stumble blindly as they make their way 6 _____ the universe

non-English lyrics

Nothing's going change my world (x4)

Sounds of laughter shades of earth are ringing
7 _____ my open mind inciting and inviting me
Limitless undying love which shines 8 _____ me like a million suns
And calls me on and on across the universe

non-English lyrics

Nothing's going change my world (x8)

around

before

away

through

across

out

inside

into

vocabulary

phrasal verbs

what is a phrasal verb?

multiple words that make a new meaning with a verb

- give up
- get on
- take off
- look after

up

beat up
bring up
give up
grow up
keep it up
look up
make up
mess up
pick up
put up with
set up
shut up
show up
stand up
take up
tie up

out

check out
come out
drop out
eat out
figure out
find out
get out
go out
hang out
point out
put out
run out
sleep out
speak out
spell out
turn out

phrasal verbs

back

come back
cut back on
go back
hold back
set back

after

look after
model after
take after

over

go over
think over
do over

on

go on
hold on

off

1. break off
2. call off
3. cut off
4. drop off
5. go off
6. hit it off
7. hold off
8. log off
9. put off
10. show off
13. write off

in

bring in
check in
drop in
fill in
put in
turn in

down

break down
calm down
cut down
look down on
put down
turn down

away

give away
pass away

phrasal verbs

phrasal verb meanings and examples, see

<https://www.alps.academy/phrasal-verbs/>

List of Phrasal Verbs with Meanings

back up

- to support or defend someone
- When the class was making fun of me, only the teacher backed me up.

break down

- to stop working, especially with machines
- The ice cream machine at work is often breaks down.

call around

- to contact multiple people
- Roy called around to find a nearby mechanic.

call off

- to cancel a planned event
- We called the party off. / We called off the party.

calm down

- to relax after an energetic or irritated state
- I need a few minutes to calm down after that match.

check out

- to examine a person or thing.
- I'll check the contract out.

cheer up

- to make someone happy, especially if they were previously sad
- Reading always cheers me up on a rainy day.

clean up

- to be extremely successful in a venture such as business, sports, or gambling
- Our hockey team cleaned up at the tournament and went home undefeated.

come around

- to stop engaging in questionable behaviour, such as consuming drugs or alcohol
- Her boss said she had to either clean up or find a new job.

exercise #1

phrasal verbs

In pairs, match each phrasal verb with its correct definition.

1. Look up
 2. Run out
 3. Turn on
 4. Break up
 5. Bring up
 6. Put off
 7. Come across
 8. Set up
- a. To activate a device
 - b. To arrange or establish
 - c. To end a relationship
 - d. To exhaust the supply
 - e. To find unexpectedly
 - f. To mention or introduce a topic
 - g. To postpone
 - h. To search for information

exercise #2

phrasal verbs - listening exercise

As the city lights shimmered, I unexpectedly ¹ _____ a charming bookstore nestled between skyscrapers.

Engaging in conversation, the bookseller enthusiastically ² _____ rare editions.

However, my plans to return were ³ _____ by an urgent work commitment.

Urgently needing to ⁴ _____ my laptop, I hastily ⁵ _____ the nearest café for Wi-Fi, turning it into an impromptu office.

Reflecting on the day, I was disappointed about having to ⁶ _____ my bookstore visit.

Despite plans being unexpectedly ⁷ _____, the experience was an adventure worth cherishing.

exercise #3

down
in
on
on
off
off
out
out
out
over
up
up
up
up
up

phrasal verbs

Fill the gaps with the missing phrasal verbs

1. Take your shoes _____ before you enter the building.
2. The assignment needs to be handed _____ to the teacher next Friday.
3. My brother has stopped travelling and now he has settled _____ in Devon.
4. You must put _____ a life jacket before you get into the boat.
5. The manager is leaving next month, so this month he is handing _____ to his replacement.
6. I waited for nearly an hour, but my friend didn't turn _____ for the meeting.
7. That's a relief. I've finally sorted _____ the problem with my phone.
8. While business was slow in the beginning, after 12 months it really took _____
9. They are short staffed in the kitchen this morning; can you please help _____?
10. I always pick _____ my daughter from school at three o'clock.
11. This is a tough question; I'm having trouble working _____ the answer.
12. I'm afraid I can't hear you; can you speak _____ please?
13. Even though I was running very fast, I could not keep _____ with my friend.
14. Sorry. Can you please hold _____ for a few minutes? I'll be free very soon.
15. The children didn't run away but they stood _____ to the bully.

bonus exercise

Select the phrasal verbs that have a similar meaning to the words below

- | | |
|--------------|-------------|
| 1. calculate | a) hand on |
| 2. remove | b) help out |
| 3. wait | c) hold in |
| 4. submit | d) sort out |
| 5. arrive | e) take off |
| 6. assist | f) turn up |
| 7. solve | g) work out |

Thank you!
any questions?