

Prepositions

A preposition links a following noun, pronoun (replaces a noun, e.g. she, him, they, who, his, yours, this) or noun phrase (a phrase with a noun as its head, e.g. some witches, witches with green flashing eyes) to some other word in the sentence.

Prepositions often describe locations or directions, but can describe other things such as relations of time.

Examples:

He'll be back from Privet Drive in two weeks.

Harry waved goodbye to Ron and Hermione.

Some words like *before* or *since* can act either as prepositions or conjunctions.

Examples:

He hadn't seen Hagrid since last term. (preposition)

The witch was going, since no-one wanted her there! (conjunction)

A **preposition phrase** has a preposition as its head followed by a noun, pronoun, noun phrase or even an adverb. These preposition phrases are acting as adverbials.

Examples:

Harry lay in bed.

Until recently, he thought he was a normal boy.

We met them after the Dark Arts class.

Hagrid was always ready for food.

Adverbials (2)

Underline the adverbs or preposition phrases or other adverbials that modify the verb telling us when, how or why something happened or was done.

The numbers tell you how many there are!

After a minute or so, Harry heard the clunks of Moody's wooden leg growing fainter in the corridor below. [2 preposition phrases]

Suddenly, he found himself sitting on a bench at the end of the room inside the basin, a bench raised high above the others. [1 adverb, 4 preposition phrases]

That time, he had fallen through a page in an enchanted diary, right into somebody else's memory ... Unless he was very much mistaken, something of the sort had happened again. [1 adverbial, 3 preposition phrases, 1 adverb]

Karkaroff's eyes darted towards the door in the corner, behind which the Dementors undoubtedly still stood waiting. [2 preposition phrases, 2 adverbs]

He was wearing a look of deep scepticism behind Dumbledore's back. [1 preposition phrase]

Dumbledore drew his wand out of the inside of his robes, and placed the tip into his own silvery hair, near his temple. [3 preposition phrases]

Naturally, it would have attracted your attention. [1 adverb]

Every now and then, he placed his wand tip to his temple, removed another shining silver thought, and added it to the Pensieve. [1 adverbial, 2 preposition phrases]

The attacks on them came after Voldemort's fall from power, just when everyone thought they were safe. [1 preposition phrase]

Unfortunately, the Longbottoms' evidence was, in view of their condition, none too reliable. [1 adverb, 1 preposition phrase]