Prepositions

A preposition has an object which is usually a noun or a pronoun. It establishes the relationship between its object and another part of the sentence, such as space or time.

Examples: The man looked __________ the car.
The man looked over the car.
The man looked at the car.
The man looked around the car.
The man looked beneath the car.

Most words that fit sensibly in the blank are prepositions. It is establishing the relationship between where the man looked and the car. (Some prepositions do not work in this example, such as during, since, except, etc.)

Prepositions:

- aboard
  He climbed aboard the ship.

- beyond
  Our field is beyond the house.

- out
  Sue ran out the door.

- about
  I read a good book about dogs.

- but (meaning “except for”)
  She passed everyone but me.

- over
  The horse jumped over the fence.

- above
  Birds flew above the cornfield.

- by
  My alarm clock is by my bed.

- past
  My house is just past the school.

- across
  They went across the street.

- concerning
  Here is a letter concerning Jo.

- since
  She has been ill since Monday.

- after
  She went home after the party.

- down
  He slid down the pole.

- through
  The knife cut through the butter.

- against
  Bill is playing against his brother.

- during
  Grandpa slept during church.

- throughout
  Joy spread throughout the world.

- among
  He is the smartest among us.

- except (meaning “but”)
  I like all seafood except shrimp.

- off
  Be careful getting off the bus.

- along
  He walked along the sidewalk.

- for
  I’m going home for lunch.

- to
  I gave the letter to the postman.

- around
  Let’s run around the block.

- from
  Bob is my cousin from Utah.

- toward
  I ran toward the shelter.

- at
  The fire started at the gas station. The old lady sat in the pool.

- in
  What do you have under the towel?
before
He slept before the soccer game.

inside
Two books were inside the box.

underneath
His keys were underneath the hat.

behind
Kerry hid behind the oak tree.

into
Next, put the onions into the pot.

until
I can’t drive until I get glasses.

below
The detergent is below the sink.

like
He fixes things like cars.

up
He climbed up the fire escape.

beneath
Don’t stand beneath mistletoe.

near
My car is parked near the curb.

upon
He set the vase upon the mantle.

beside
John sat down beside his date.

of
That is Brian Noskasi of GSU.

with
Stop the girl with the backpack!

besides (meaning “in addition to”)
Besides flowers, he also gave her candy.

between
He sat between two girls.

on
Place the book on the top shelf.

without
He opened the door without a key.

**Compound Prepositions:**

according to
He’s cute according to his mom.

in addition to
I am thin in addition to being tall.

on account of
He left on account of my rudeness.

aside from
Jo has no pals aside from Bob.

in place of
Eat more fruit in place of candy.

out of
Out of 30 runners, he came in third.

because of
He is late because of his flat tire.

in spite of
He raced in spite of his illness.

prior to
Prior to my wedding, I was busy.

by means of
The children go to school by means of a school bus.

instead of
I eat tofu instead of meat.

due to
We cancelled the picnic due to the rain.

in front of
My car is in front of a big van.