A preposition shows the relationship between a noun or pronoun and some other word in the sentence.

(Tarzan swings ________ the trees.)

Any word that fits sensibly in the blank is a preposition since such a word must show the relationship between trees and swings.

(Hurtik, In Phase, p. 8)

The preposition establishes a relationship such as space, time, accompaniment, cause, or manner between its object and another word in the sentence. A preposition always has an object which is usually a noun or pronoun. The preposition with its object (and any modifiers) is called a prepositional phrase.

**Prepositional Phrases (two or more words)**

according to in addition to on account of
aside from in front of out of
because of in place of owing to
by means of in spite of prior to
between off within

aboard beyond out
about but (meaning except) over
above by past
across concerning since
after down through
against during throughout
along except till
among for to
around from toward
at in under
before inside underneath
behind into until
below like up
beneath near upon
beside of which
besides off within
between on without