

Prepositions and Prepositional Phrases

A **preposition** begins a group of words called a **prepositional phrase**. The noun or pronoun that follows the preposition is called the **object of the preposition**. Prepositional phrases convey location, time, or direction or provide details.

People have watched animated movies for a long time. (preposition)

People have watched animated movies for a long time. (prepositional phrase)

People have watched animated movies for a long time. (object of the preposition)

Common Prepositions

| | | | | | |
|---------|---------|------|------|---------|-------|
| about | around | by | into | over | until |
| above | at | down | near | through | up |
| across | before | for | of | to | with |
| after | below | from | on | toward | |
| against | between | in | onto | under | |

Directions Underline the prepositional phrase in each sentence. Write *P* above the preposition. Write *O* above the object of the preposition.

1. The characters in animated films often seem quite real.
2. Young viewers may identify with the superheroes.
3. Ariel was a mermaid who lived under the sea.
4. She wanted a life on dry land.

Directions Underline the prepositional phrases. The number in () tells how many prepositional phrases are in that sentence.

5. Many fairy tales have been made into animated movies for children. (2)
6. Their stories take youngsters from childhood into adulthood. (2)
7. The hero of the tale must pass through trials and adventures. (2)
8. At the end, he or she has shown great strength of character. (2)



Home Activity Your child learned about prepositions and prepositional phrases. Read a favorite story with your child. Ask him or her to point out prepositional phrases and identify the preposition and object of the preposition in each.

Vocabulary • Prefixes

- A **prefix** is added at the beginning of a base word to change its meaning.
- Prefixes do not stand alone in sentences. They usually have their own definitions listed in dictionaries, as well as their origins, such as the Greek or Latin languages.
- The prefixes *re-*, meaning “to do over,” and *pre-*, meaning “before,” come from Latin.

Directions Read the following passage. Then answer the questions below.

On our first trip to Los Angeles, we toured a special-effects studio. In one room the workers had just reassembled a landscape scene with prehistoric animals. Huge reptile-like birds with feathers flew in the background. In another room we saw a miniature village. Tiny houses were placed among even tinier bushes and trees.

Next, we visited the basement. We heard explosions going off. We were

told that technicians were testing small explosive devices and that we should be careful. Down the hall we saw a room full of what looked like snow and ice. It was going to be used as an Arctic landscape with below-zero temperatures.

By the end of the afternoon, we were weary but eager to redo the tour soon. We felt like we had been treated to our own sneak preview of several of the coolest movies coming out in the future.

1. What does *reassembled* mean? What prefix helped you to determine the meaning?

2. What does *prehistoric* mean? What does its prefix mean?

3. If you replaced the prefix in *preview* with the prefix *re-*, how would the meaning change?

4. Can you use a prefix to determine the meaning of *real*? Why or why not?

5. Write at least three examples of words that either begin with the prefix *re-* or *pre-*.



Home Activity Your child identified the meanings of words with prefixes. Make a list of all the words you can think of that begin with the prefixes *re-* or *pre-*. Then, have a silly conversation in which you try to use as many words on the list as possible.

Name _____

Prefixes *un-*, *de-*, *dis-*

Spelling Words

| | | | | |
|-------------|------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| uncover | defrost | uncomfortable | discourage | disadvantage |
| unfortunate | unfamiliar | disability | discomfort | deodorant |
| unemployed | deflate | disbelief | unpredictable | disapprove |
| disappoint | unpleasant | dehydrated | disqualify | undecided |

Definitions in Context Write the list word that has the same or almost the same meaning as the underlined word or words.

- Moisture is removed from dried out food. 1. _____
- I need to melt the turkey. 2. _____
- It was unlucky that I broke my leg. 3. _____
- My mother has been out of work since the factory closed. 4. _____
- The outcome of the contest was in doubt for months. 5. _____
- The player's tardiness was a difficulty for the team. 6. _____
- I took a route home from school that was new to me. 7. _____
- The roller coaster ride was disagreeable to me. 8. _____
- It was painful to sleep on the old, lumpy mattress. 9. _____
- The team decided to ban a player for cheating. 10. _____

Antonyms Write the list word that has the opposite or nearly the opposite meaning.

- ability 11. _____
- with odor 12. _____
- belief 13. _____
- expected 14. _____
- please 15. _____
- inflate 16. _____
- conceal 17. _____
- support 18. _____
- encourage 19. _____
- comfortable 20. _____



Home Activity Your child wrote words with prefixes. Say a prefix and have your child respond with one word from the list that has that prefix.