

Last Grammar Unit: (Prepositions, Conjunctions, Interjections, Sentences, Punctuation)

A **preposition** is a word that connects one thing with another, showing how they are related.

A **preposition** is *usually* followed by a noun or pronoun. Some **prepositions** tell you about **position** or **place**. For example:

- There's a big balloon **in** the sky.
- Jane is jumping **into** the pool.
- The books fell **off** the shelf.

Exercise 1: Underline the preposition in each sentence below.

1. Dad always keeps his wallet in the drawer.
2. There is a long mirror on the wall.
3. The school is near the park.
4. There is an old castle on the hill.
5. The horse jumped over the fence.

Some **prepositions** are used to talk about **time**. Examples:

- Many shops are closed on Sundays.
- We watched the World Cup game until 2 A.M.
- The trees lose their leaves during winter.
- We always wash our hands before meals.

Exercise 2: Underline the preposition in each sentence below.

1. Mom gets home about six in the evening.
2. We get up in the morning.
3. The movie starts at eight in the evening.
4. They were married in 1990.
5. Breakfast is served at seven o'clock.
6. The man fell off the ladder.
7. Several people are waiting at the bus stop.
8. Why are you still in bed?

Exercise 3: Fill in the blanks with a preposition that makes sense [**near, in, by, around, on, into, at, up, between, behind**]. Some may have more than one possible answer.

1. The bus arrived _____ 8:30 P.M.
2. There's a picture _____ the wall.
3. Grandma is sitting _____ the fire.
4. Don't go too _____ the edge.
5. There is a fence _____ the house.

A **conjunction** is a linking word such as **and, or, but**. Conjunctions are used to connect two or more words or sentences. Examples:

- The animal is large **but** timid.
- It's cold, wet **and** windy today.
- Is it Thursday **or** Friday?

The words before, after, when, while, until, since, are also conjunctions. They tell when something happens, so they are called conjunctions of time. Examples:

- Maggie could play the piano **before** she was five years old.
- You have grown taller **since** I saw you last.
- **After** he began exercising regularly, Jerry became healthier.

Exercise 4: Underline the preposition in each sentence below.

1. Look both ways before you cross the street.
2. Miss Lee was smiling as she walked into her class.
3. Joe listened to music while he was doing his homework.
4. Lily saw an accident while she was riding the bus.
5. Joe met his wife while he was studying in London.

Exercise 5: Fill in the blanks with a conjunction that makes sense [**and, but, or**]. Some may have more than one possible answer.

1. I asked for some bread _____ butter.
2. Mr. _____ Mrs. Rodriguez have three children.
3. We wish you a Merry Christmas _____ a Happy New Year.
4. Is their new baby a boy _____ a girl?
5. Are you going to Philadelphia by train _____ by bus?
6. Erin is a great dancer _____ a poor dancer.
7. William wasn't feeling well on Saturday night _____ decided to still go out to dinner.

Exercise 6: Fill in the blanks with a conjunction that makes sense [**when, after, while, since, as, until, before**]. Some may have more than one possible answer. Do this together as a class with each person reading it with a possible answer from this list - and explaining if that particular word makes sense for the sentence.

1. Jack always brushes his teeth _____ he has eaten a meal.
2. It started to rain _____ the children were playing on the swingset.
3. Let's go home _____ it gets dark.
4. Give this letter to Anne _____ you see her.
5. She has known him _____ he was a child.
6. The party began at 8 P.M. and lasted _____ midnight.
7. Alice looked unhappy _____ she entered the room.

An **interjection** is a word that expresses a sudden, strong feeling such as **surprise, pain** or **pleasure**. For example:

- Oh dear!
- Ouch!
- Happy Birthday!
- Look out!
- Wow!

Notice that an **exclamation point (!)** is often used after interjections.

A **sentence** is a group of words that expresses a complete thought. A **sentence** that makes a statement begins with a **capital letter** and ends with a **period**. A sentence must have a **subject** and a **verb**, but it may or may not have an object. The **subject** of a sentence sometimes does something to someone or something else. The person or thing that receives the action is called the **object**.

Examples:

| Subject | Verb | Object |
|----------------|---------------|---------------|
| Wendy and Kim | are fighting. | |
| Dad | cooked | dinner. |
| I | am flying | a kite. |
| They | are washing | the dishes. |
| Janet | screamed. | |
| Susan | has bought | _____. |
| Mom | _____ | the baby. |
| _____ | is writing | a story. |

**Can you please provide one example of a sentence with a subject, verb and object?

There are four kinds of **sentences**.

A **declarative sentence** makes a statement. Examples:

- The children are swimming.
- Richard is feeding his dog.
- Everyone sat down.

An **interrogative sentence** asks a question.

- Where did they go?
- What is your name?
- Are you going shopping today?

An **exclamatory sentence** expresses strong emotion.

- You are awesome!
- Watch out for the door!

An **imperative sentence** gives an order.

- Please sit down.
- Tell me the truth.
- Come back here right now.

Please note that using **please** to directly tell someone to do something is polite. Examples:

- **Please** help yourself to more food.
- Would you **please** talk quietly?
- **Please** come in.

Positive and Negative Sentences

A **positive sentence** tells you that something is *so*. A sentence that tells you a sentence is *not* so is called a **negative sentence**. It contains a negative word like **not, never, no, no one, nobody, none**, or a negative verb like **isn't, can't** or **won't**.

| Positive Sentence | Negative Sentence |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Peter is running. | He is not walking. |
| We should tell the truth. | We should never lie. |
| Everyone is in the backyard. | There is no one in the house. |
| It is very cloudy. | It isn't sunny. |
| Someone has eaten the cookies. | There are none in the bag. |

Questions

There are two kinds of questions: yes or no questions and **wh-** questions.

You ask a yes or no question to get yes or no answers. Use the verbs **can, may, is** or **are** for yes or no questions. Examples:

- **Is** Tom sick today?
- **Should** we go now?
- **Is** it raining?

- **May** I come over tonight?
- **Can** you please help me move a piano?
- **Are** you bringing your bikes?

Use the following words to ask questions for facts or for more information than yes or no.

- what, which, who, how, when, where

Examples:

- **Where** are you?
- **Why** was the light on?
- **Which** drink would you like?
- **Who** will you invite to the party?
- **When** does the store open?
- **What** would you like for dinner?

Conversational English: Answering Questions

Let's now practice answering some questions verbally in complete sentences - even if the sentence is a yes or no question.

For example:

Can you dance? Yes, I can dance very well.

1. Have you visited Plymouth Plantation?
2. Are you going to ski this winter?
3. Do you own a motorcycle?
4. What is your favorite dessert?
5. What is your favorite part of speech?
6. Would you rather have dinner at home or at a restaurant?
7. Who is your best friend?
8. How old are you?
9. When do you typically go to bed during the week?

Punctuation

Punctuation marks are signs such as periods, commas and question marks. You use them in sentences to make the meaning clear.

Use a **period** at the **end** of a sentence.

Use a **comma** between nouns, adjectives and phrases. Commas are used to show where there is a **brief pause**.

- I will bring my backpack, water bottle, and compass on the hike.

An **exclamation point** is often used after a command, an interjection or a word that shows surprise or anger.

- Help!
- You are fired!

Use a **question mark** after a question.

- What is your name?
- Why are you always late?

Use an **apostrophe** to show who owns something.

For **singular nouns that DO NOT end in s**, the apostrophe goes before the s ('s):

- This is **Sally's** room.
- **John's** dog is very friendly.
- Is this **Portland's** tallest building?

For **singular nouns that DO end in s**, follow the same rule by writing the apostrophe and then adding another s:

- Dad is at the **boss's** party.
- The **princess's** crown was beautiful.

For **plural nouns that DO NOT end in s**, the apostrophe goes before the s ('s):

- There are slides and swings at the **children's** playground.
- The **men's** bathroom is occupied.
- Doctors look after **people's** health.

For **plural nouns that DO end in s**, the apostrophe goes after the s (s'):

- This is my parents' wedding photograph.
- Henry attends a boys' school.
- A flood has destroyed all the farmers' crops.
- Dr. Kim parked his car in the doctors' parking lot.

The **apostrophe** can also be used to show that one or more letters in a **contraction** have been left out. Review the other contractions previously discussed. Examples:

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| The mail has arrived. | The mail's arrived. |
| Sally is here. | Sally's here. |
| Mary would like a cat as a pet. | Mary'd like a cat as a pet. |