

# PREPOSITIONAL PHRASES

Finding prepositional phrases, nouns, and pronouns

# Prepositional Phrases:

- Appear frequently in English sentences
- Are not essential
- Do not contain the required parts of a sentences (subject an verb)
  - ▣ Examples: over the fence, by the audience, according to my grandmother, during class

# Characteristics of prepositional phrases

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- Prepositional phrases **ALWAYS** begin with a preposition
- Prepositional phrases **ALWAYS** end with a noun or pronoun

# Types of Prepositions

- Position – Most prepositions refer to the relative position of one thing to another.
- Examples: toward, near, beside, behind

Where is the cat in relation to the house?

under the house, near the house, beside the house, in the house, on the house ...



# More types of prepositions

- Time prepositions
  - ▣ Examples: before, after, during, since, till, until
- “Oddball” prepositions do not fit into the time or position category
  - ▣ Examples: of, with, for, concerning, about, except, but, like, as
- Prepositions made up of two or more words
  - ▣ Examples: according to, prior to, in front of, as to, out of, due to, subsequent to, in addition to, along with, as well as, aside from, because of, inside of, on account of

# Nouns

- Nouns are names of a person, place, thing, or idea.
- Persons:
  - ▣ Examples: actor, artist, writer, blogger, Brad Pitt, Picasso
- Places:
  - ▣ Examples: park, street, school, Alton Baker Park, 30<sup>th</sup> Ave
- Things:
  - ▣ Examples: book, movie, email, website, *National Geographic*, *Google*
- Ideas or Concepts:
  - ▣ Examples: religion, philosophy, freedom, Buddhism

# Pronouns

- Pronouns refer to or replace a noun and help avoid repetition.
  - ▣ Example without pronouns: Michael Jordan played basketball for Michael Jordan's team, the Bulls. Then, Michael Jordan decided to change the course of Michael Jordan's career, and Michael Jordan decided to play golf and baseball instead. However, Michael Jordan was not as successful playing baseball, so Michael Jordan decided to go back to Michael Jordan's old basketball team, the Bulls.
  - ▣ Michael Jordan played basketball for *his* team. Then *he* decided to change *his* career ...
  - ▣ Examples: I, me, you, we, they, them, he, him, she, her ...

# Object of a preposition & Marking

- All prepositions end with a noun or pronoun.
- This noun or pronoun is the ***object of the preposition***.
- To find the object of the preposition, say the preposition; then ask “whom?” or “what?”
  - ▣ Example: The deer jumped over the fence.
  - ▣ “Over what?” “The fence”
- Use parentheses around prepositional phrases to mark them.
  - ▣ Example: The deer jumped (over the fence.)

# Additional Examples

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- The deer jumped (over the fence.)
- The deer jumped (over the picket fence.)
- The deer jumped (over the fence and hedges.)
- The snake slithered (between the rock and the house.)

# Summary

- Prepositional phrases **ALWAYS** begin with a preposition
- Prepositional phrases **ALWAYS** end with a noun or pronoun
- Prepositional phrases **NEVER** contain the subject or verb of the sentence
- It is helpful to identify prepositional phrases first before looking at other structures in the sentence.