

Prepositions:



Grammar ~ Prepositions, Subject-Verb, Nominative/Object

What is Preposition?

Preposition – word that connects a noun or pronoun to another word in the sentence. It shows relationships between separate things, including location, direction, cause, and possession.

Examples:

She ran across the road.

The dog jumped over the fence.

Prepositional Phrases

A **prepositional phrase** is a group of words that includes a preposition and a noun or pronoun.

The noun or pronoun generally found after a preposition is called *the object of the preposition*.

Here's an example:

She went out before the storm.

[**before**] as the preposition and [**the storm**] as the object of the preposition.

You can download a printable worksheet of **Prepositional Phrases** below.

Prepositions Study Guide

A **preposition** is a word that relates a noun or pronoun that appears with it to another word in the sentence.

It shows relationships between separate things, including location, direction, cause, and possession.

Frequently used prepositions				
about	behind	down	off	till
above	below	during	on	to
across	beneath	except	onto	toward
after	beside	for	opposite	under
against	besides	from	out	underneath
along	between	in	outside	until
amid	beyond	inside	over	up
among	but	into	past	upon

around	by	like	since	with
at	concerning	near	through	within
before	despite	of	throughout	without
Compound prepositions				
according to	because of	in place of	next to	
ahead of	by means of	in regard to	on account of	
apart from	in addition to	in spite of	out of	
aside from	in back of	instead of	owing to	
as of	in front of	in view of	prior to	

Practice Exercise

Indicate the prepositional phrases in these sentences.

1. After school, the boys played a game of baseball at the park.
2. We hid our canoe in the bushes and set up camp by the river.
3. Candy signed her name on the line and passed the paper across the table.
4. Without any warning, the dog dashed to the door and barked loudly.
5. The storm caused the tree in our front yard to fall against the house.

Prepositions Also Help with Subject Verb Agreement... When determining subject-verb agreement, you DO NOT look at the prepositional phrase (unless, of course, the subject is one of the words in the middle column below!).

Subject – Verb Agreement/Pronoun-Antecedent Agreement

Singular	Singular OR Plural	Plural
Anyone	Some	Both
Anybody	Most	Few
No one	All	Many
Nobody	Any	Others
One	None	Several
Someone	*Depends on the prepositional phrase following the subject (Some of the <u>cake</u> was left. – “cake” is singular) (Most of the <u>boys</u> participated in the game. – “boys” is plural)	
Somebody		
Everyone		
Everybody		
Each		
If both subjects are singular connected by:	Either...or	
Or	Neither...nor	
Nor	*The verb agrees with the noun closest to the verb (Neither the teachers nor the <u>student</u> knows where to go) vs. (Neither the student nor the <u>teachers</u> know where to go)	
Either...or		
Neither...nor		

Practice Exercise: Underline the subject and identify the verb that correctly agrees with the subject in each sentence.

- Most of this soccer equipment (belong, belongs) to the township.
- The delivery of milk (arrive, arrives) each morning at six o'clock.
- Most of the boys (go, goes) to practice every day.
- The carton of oranges delivered fresh from Florida (is, are) on the table.
- Several pieces of lawn furniture (need, needs) to be replaced.
- The conflict between the political parties (is, are) an endless battle.
- Her arguments against the planned trip (convince, convinces) me to change my plans.
- Neither my sister nor my brothers (know, knows) the way to the vacation house.
- Sue or Jill (is, are) likely to be voted this year's prom queen.
- Each of the students in the lab (is, are) responsible for (their, his) own equipment.

Name: _____
English 11

Subject-Verb Agreement Practice I

1. The piano as well as the pipe organ _____ to be tuned for the big concert.
☐ HAS
☐ HAVE
2. The mayor together with his two brothers _____ going to be indicted for accepting bribes.
☐ ARE
☐ IS
3. Neither of my two suitcases _____ adequate for this trip.
☐ IS
☐ ARE
4. There _____ a list of committee members on the head-table.
☐ ARE
☐ IS
5. Everybody in the class _____ done the homework well in advance.
☐ HAS
☐ HAVE
6. _____ either my father or my brothers made a down-payment on the house?
☐ HAS
☐ HAVE
7. Some of the grain _____ gone bad.
☐ HAVE
☐ HAS

8. John or his brother _____ going to be responsible for this.
- ☐ ARE
 - ☐ IS
9. A few of the students _____ doing so well they can skip the next course.
- ☐ ARE
 - ☐ IS
10. Either the Committee on Course Design or the Committee on College Operations _____ these matters.
- ☐ DECIDE
 - ☐ DECIDES
11. One of my instructors _____ written me a letter of recommendation.
- ☐ HAVE
 - ☐ HAS
12. Hartford is one of those cities which _____ working hard to reclaim a riverfront.
- ☐ IS
 - ☐ ARE

PRONOUN CASE:

Singular

	Nominative (Subject)	Objective	Possessive
1st person	I	me	my, mine
2nd person	you	you	your, yours
3rd person	he, she, it, who	him, her, it whom	his, hers, its, whose

Plural

	Nominative (Subject)	Objective	Possessive
1st person	We	Us	Our, ours
2nd person	You	You	Your, yours
3rd person	they, who	them, whom	their, theirs, whose

Nominative case pronouns are **used only as the subject** or the predicate nominative of a sentence or clause.

Ex. We are planning to go to Mexico on Spring break. (Subject)

Ex. It was I who scored the winning goal. (Predicate nominative)

Objective case pronouns may be used as the:

1. **Object of the preposition** (The coach gave the game ball to **him**.)
2. **Indirect Object** (The coach gave **him** the ball.)
3. **Direct Object** (The coach called **him**.)

1. The teacher about (who, whom) we were talking retired last year.
2. (We, Us) students were waiting so long, we wondered what happened to (he, him) and Janie.
3. After graduation, Tara and (her, she) want to live in the city.
4. Carlos and (I, me) want to win the award.
5. The committee gave the award to Carlos and (I, me).

Between you and me/you and I?

When pronouns joined by a conjunction occur as the object of a preposition such as *between*, *according to*, or *like*, many people use the subjective form where the traditional grammatical rule would require the objective. They say *between you and I* rather than *between you and me*, and so forth.

Writing *between you and I* is now widely regarded as a sign of ignorance, even though the phrase occurs quite often in speech. So don't feel bad if you catch yourself saying it. Just remember: if you want to avoid trouble, stick to *between you and me* in formal speech and writing.

Grammar Review: I vs. Me

Grade 11

Exercise:

Place a check (✓) in the space provided if the sentence is correct *in formal writing*; if there is an error in usage, write the correct form.

1. Bob and me went to the movies on Friday night. _____
2. My teacher asked Jessica, Eliza, and I to help pass out the papers. _____
3. Humphrey talked to Inglebert and me about his Spanish project. _____
4. Much to my surprise, Olaf gave Pollyanna and I flowers for Valentine's Day. _____
5. Travis and I asked my mother to take us to the mall. _____
6. "The odds are against you and I," Rick explained. _____
7. She asked Harry and me to bring the annual report to the meeting. _____
8. Mr. Smith encouraged Doug and I to attend the leadership conference. _____
9. The argument between Cindy and I lasted for several weeks. _____
10. The committee members are Bill, Sandra, Judy, and me. _____