

# Prepositions

or

# Adverbs

modified from Language Skills & Usage TE, page 86-7  
file found in Prepositions  
Prepositions.Adverb.1.fromLangSkillUseTE.page.86

- Many words can perform different functions in sentences.
- For example, the word before is used as a preposition in one of the sentences on the following slide and as an adverb in another sentence.
- To distinguish between prepositions & adverbs, see if it has an object.
- If it does, it is a preposition.
- An adverb never has an object.

prep or adverb

## preposition

has an object of the preposition that is a noun or pronoun

## adverb

- has no object
- modifies a verb, an adjective, or another adverb
  - tells when, where, or how something is done
    - can also tell to what degree something is done—it adds information to the verb or adjective

prep or adverb

OOP

the word race is a noun

The girl was nervous before the race.

Prep or adverb?

Is there an object of the preposition (a noun/pronoun)?

**Yes, so it is a preposition.**

## prep or adverb

the first prep phrase,  
the word on is a prep  
because it has an object,  
team

But what about the  
second one, the word  
before?

She has never played on the team before.

## Prep or adverb?

Is there an object of the preposition (a noun/pronoun)?

No, so it is an adverb—tells when.

to = tricky

- Sometimes a phrase consists of the word to plus a verb.
  - In such instances, to is not a preposition but a part of a verb form.
  - Remember that a preposition always has a noun or pronoun as an object.
- If a verb follows the word to, it is an infinitive, a verb form, and not a preposition or an adverb.

to plus a verb =  
an infinitive phrase

My friend wanted to leave.

leave is a verb so to  
is not a prep or an adverb

We walked together to the door.

Is to a prep or an adverb?

Is there an object of the preposition (a noun/pronoun)?

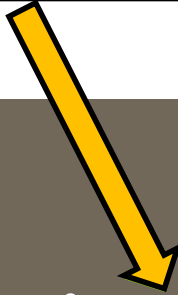
Yes, so to is a prep in this sentence.

## Example

# prep or adverb

adverb

because it has no object; just tells where



I sat down at the end of the pier.



prepositions

because they have objects of  
end & pier



adverb

because it has no object; just tells where



I looked up when I heard the shout  
from the water.



preposition

because it has an object, water

I noticed a sailboat that had been  
sailing around.



adverb  
because it has no object; just tells where

preposition

because of the object of prep, cockpit

Inside the cockpit sat a woman  
with a lever in her hand.

prepositions

because they have objects of lever & hand

## prep or adverb

preposition  
because it has an object, water

She shouted across the water,  
asking if I wanted to come along.

neither  
it's an infinitive phrase  
because of the verb,  
come after it

adverb  
because it has no object;  
just tells where

neither

it's an infinitive phrase  
because of the verb,  
jump coming after it

preposition  
because of the  
object, boat

She told me to jump into the boat  
as she came by.

adverb  
because it does not have an  
object; just tells where

adverb  
because it has no  
object; just tells where



I nervously looked down at the  
black water below me.



prepositions  
because they have objects,  
water & me

preposition

because it has an object, experience



From experience, I knew the water  
was cold under the surface.



preposition

because it has an object, surface

# prep or adverb

neither  
it's an infinitive phrase  
because of the verb, wait coming after it

The woman warned me to wait

until the boat came close

before I jumped in.

prep-due to  
object, boat

prep-due to  
object, I

adverb  
no object

adverb  
no object



## prep or adverb

preposition  
because it has an object, pier

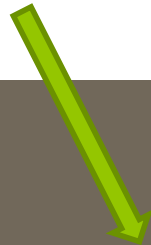


She guided the boat by the pier  
and stopped it near me.



preposition  
because it has an object, me

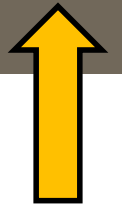
preposition  
because it has an object, water



I leaped over the water and landed  
on the desk as the boat went past.



preposition  
because it has  
an object, desk



adverb  
because it has no  
object; just tells where