THE PREPOSITIONAL PHRASE

1. A <u>phrase</u> is a group of words without a subject and verb, used as one part of speech. (There are several types of phrases including the verb phrase, noun phrase, and prepositional phrase.)

2. The prepositional phrase consists of the <u>preposition</u>, its <u>object</u>, and <u>modifiers</u> of the object. The <u>object</u> of the preposition is always a <u>noun</u>, <u>pronoun</u>, or a group of words used as a noun.

   To find the object of the preposition, first say the preposition, then ask, "Whom or what?"

   <center>s   v</center>
   <center>The coin fell (between the cracks.)</center>

   <u>Between</u> is the preposition in the above sentence. To find the object of the preposition ask "Between what?" The noun "cracks" answers the question, so it is the object of the preposition.

3. Prepositional phrases are used as <u>adjectives</u> or <u>adverbs</u>.

   A.. When prepositional phrases are used as <u>adjectives</u>, the phrase comes immediately after the noun or pronoun it modifies. The phrase answers one of the following questions about the word it modifies: <u>Which one</u>? <u>What kind of</u>? <u>How many</u>? <u>Whose</u>?

   <center>My check (for the dress) is in the mail.</center>

   The prepositional phrase, "for the dress," tells <u>which check</u>. The phrase is used as an adjective modifying the noun "check."

   B. When prepositional phrases are used as <u>adverbs</u>, they may be found any place in the sentence. The adverb phrase tells <u>how</u>, <u>when</u>, <u>where</u>, or <u>under what condition</u> about a verb, adjective, or adverb.

   <center>The boy fell (on the steps.)</center>

   The phrase "on the steps" tells where the boy fell. It modifies the verb "fell" and is used as an adverb.

4. The following is a list of frequently used prepositions:

about	away from	beside	during	on	underneath
above	apart from	besides	except	onto	until
according to	around	between	for	out (out of)	up
across	aside from	beyond	from	outside	upon
after	at	by	in (into)	over	with
against	because of	by means of	including	past	within
along	before	by way of	like	through	without
along with	behind	concerning	near	to	
amid or amidst	below	despite	of	towards	
among	beneath	down	off	under	