

# Prepositions, Conjunctions, Interjections

Parts of speech

# Prepositions

- Prepositions are used to express the relationship of a noun or pronoun (or another grammatical element functioning as a noun) to the rest of the sentence. The noun or pronoun that is connected by the preposition is known as the object of the preposition.
- Some common prepositions are **in, on, for, to, of, with, and about**, though there are many others.

# Common Prepositional Errors

- Prepositions can be very difficult to navigate because many of them are used to express multiple kinds of relationships, and it's easy to use one in the wrong context.

For example:

✗ “I had breakfast with cereal and milk.” (incorrect)

✓ “I had cereal and milk for breakfast.” (correct)

- The first sentence is a common error. It implies that you, the cereal, and the milk all had breakfast together. You can have breakfast with your friends or your family, but not with cereal and milk. However, we can use **with** to show a connection between cereal and milk, as in:

✓ “I had cereal with milk for breakfast.”

# Common Prepositional Errors

- Another similar error is:

✗ “I go to work **with** my car.”

✓ “I go to work **by** car.”

- In the first sentence, it implies that you and your car go to work together. You can go to work with a person, but when speaking about a means of transportation, we often use the preposition **by**. If the object is modified by a possessive determiner, we can also use the preposition **in**, as in:

✓ “I go to work **in** my car.”

# Categories of prepositions

- Prepositions can be broadly divided into eight categories: time, place, direction or movement, agency, instrument or device, reason or purpose, connection, and origin

| Category              | Preposition  | Example sentences  |
|-----------------------|--|--|
| Time                  | at, in, on, for, during, since, by, until, before, after, to, past   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• “There is a film <b>at noon</b> we could see.” (adjectival)</li><li>• “We’re meeting him <b>in an hour.</b>” (adverbial)</li></ul>           |
| Place                 | at, in, on, by/near/close to, next to/beside, between, behind, in front of, above/over, below/under            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• “The cat <b>on the roof</b> was hissing at us.” (adjectival)</li><li>• “Try looking <b>behind the shed.</b>” (adverbial)</li></ul>           |
| Direction or Movement | to, from, over, under, along, around, across, through, into, out of, toward(s), away from, onto, off, up, down | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• “The house <b>down the road</b> is being sold.” (adjectival)</li><li>• “They drove <b>across the country.</b>” (adverbial)</li></ul>         |
| Agency                | by, with   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• “The book <b>by the famous author</b> is a big hit.” (adjectival)</li><li>• “Her heart is filled <b>with emotion.</b>” (adverbial)</li></ul> |
| Instrument or Device  | by, with, on   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• “The journey <b>by boat</b> is long and arduous.” (adjectival)</li><li>• “He hit the nail <b>with a hammer.</b>” (adverbial)</li></ul>       |

# Categories of prepositions

|                   |   |   |
|-------------------|---|---|
| Reason or Purpose | for, through, because of, on account of, from | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• “I have a separate computer <b>for</b> work.” (adjectival)</li><li>• “They left early <b>because of the storm.</b>” (adverbial)</li></ul>   |
| Connection        | of, to, with                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• “A well-written cover letter <b>to employers</b> helps your chances of being hired.” (adjectival)</li><li>• “I think she decided to go <b>with Victor.</b>” (adverbial)</li></ul> |
| Origin            | from, of                                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• “Tom is <b>of German descent.</b>” (adjectival)</li><li>• “We started our trip <b>from Italy.</b>” (adverbial)</li></ul>  |

# Conjunctions

- Conjunctions are used to express relationships between things in a sentence, link different clauses together, and to combine sentences. Without conjunctions, we would be forced to use brief, simple sentences that do not express the full range of meaning we wish to communicate. By using different kinds of conjunctions, we are able to make more complex, sophisticated sentences that show a connection between actions and ideas.
- There are four main types of conjunctions: coordinating conjunctions, subordinating conjunctions, correlative conjunctions, and conjunctive adverbs.

# Coordinating Conjunctions

- The most common conjunctions are the coordinating conjunctions: **and, but, or, yet, for, so** and **nor**. We use coordinating conjunctions between:

## Individual words

- “I like to run **and** swim.”

## Phrases

- “I am a big fan of playing sports **but** not watching them.”

## Independent clauses

- “It was raining, so I took an umbrella.”



# Subordinating Conjunctions

- Subordinating conjunctions connect a subordinate clause to an independent clause. For example:
- “**Although** it was raining, I didn’t take an umbrella.”
- “**Even though** she didn’t like pepperoni, she still ate the pizza.”
- “I went to work **in spite of** being sick.”
- “I intend to go to South America next month, **provided** that I can get the time off work.”

# Correlative Conjunctions

- Correlative conjunctions are pairs of conjunctions that work together to indicate the relationship between two elements in a sentence. For example:
- “Sports are a great way to bring people together, **whether** you like to play or just watch.”
- “I like **neither** pepperoni **nor** anchovies on my pizza.”

# Conjunctive Adverbs

- Conjunctive adverbs join two independent clauses. These can either be two separate sentences, or they can be joined into a single complex sentence with a semicolon. For example:
- “Jen hadn’t enjoyed the play; **nevertheless**, she recommended it to her friend.”

# Interjections

- An interjection, also known as an exclamation, is a word, phrase, or sound used to convey an emotion such as surprise, excitement, happiness, or anger.

Interjections are very common in spoken English, but they appear in written English as well. Capable of standing alone, they are grammatically unrelated to any other part of a sentence.

# Primary Interjections

- Primary interjections are interjections that are single words derived not from any other word class, but from sounds. Nonetheless, primary interjections do have widely recognized meaning. Some common primary interjections are:

| Primary Interjection | Emotion                       |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| aah                  | fear                          |
| aha                  | triumph, sudden understanding |
| argh                 | frustration                   |
| brr                  | being cold                    |
| eww                  | disgust                       |
| grr                  | anger                         |
| hmm                  | thinking                      |
| ooh                  | amazement, being impressed    |
| phew                 | relief                        |

# Secondary Interjections

- Secondary interjections are interjections derived from words that do belong to other word classes—they may be adjectives, nouns, or entire clauses. Again, they have nothing to do with the grammar of the sentences that come before or after them. Some common secondary interjections are:
  - bless you, congratulations, good grief, hell, hey, hi, oh my, oh my God, oh well, shoot, well, what
- Curse words (vulgar or offensive words; also called swear words) are also considered interjections when they are not linked grammatically with another part of a sentence.