

SECTION 1

PARTS OF SPEECH, PREPOSITIONAL PHRASES, CORRECT USAGE, WORD STUDY

THE PARTS OF SPEECH

There are only **eight** kinds of words which make up the English language; and one of these can be practically disregarded, so that there are only seven important kinds.

1. **NOUNS** are names of people, places, objects, or qualities.
2. **PRONOUNS** are words used in place of nouns.
3. **VERBS** make statements, ask questions, or give commands
4. **ADJECTIVES** modify nouns and pronouns.
5. **ADVERBS** modify verbs, adjectives, and other adverbs.
6. **PREPOSITIONS** show relationship between words.
7. **CONJUNCTIONS** connect words
8. **INTERJECTIONS** are merely exclamations which express feeling (such as Oh! and Ouch!)

The first seven are the important classes of words. Every word, every phrase, and every subordinate clause in a sentence must serve one of these purposes

PREPOSITIONAL PHRASES

One of the most useful and practical things we can do, first of all, in analyzing how ideas are put into correct and effective sentences, is to set aside the **prepositional phrases**. The preposition always stands at the first of a group of words, and it shows the **relationship** between some word in this group and the rest of the sentence. For example, we may say,

I placed the book **on** the desk;

I placed the book **in** the desk;

I placed the book **under** the desk;

I placed the book **beside** the desk.

The words **on**, **in**, **under**, and **beside** show the relationship between the book and the desk. The word **desk** is called the **object** of the preposition, and this is the first of the thirteen uses of the noun which we shall study. This **object** can always be located by asking the question **Whom?** or **What?** after the preposition. The object must be present in the group of words; otherwise it is **not** a prepositional phrase, and there is no preposition. Thus we see that a prepositional phrase must contain **two words**—the preposition and its object—and it may contain several more.

Sometimes the object of a preposition is itself a group of words, especially when a title or other quotation is used. Example: He was dramatizing a chapter from *A Tale of Two Cities*. You notice that the phrase "of Two Cities" is inside the longer phrase.

There are many prepositions. The following is a list of those we use most often:

about	before	by	near	toward
above	behind	down	of	under
across	below	during	off	until
after	beneath	except	on	up
against	beside	for	over	upon
along	besides	from	past	with
among	between	in	since	within
around	beyond	into	through	without
at	but	like	to	
	(meaning except)			