

## WHAT IS A PREPOSITION?



A preposition is a word that shows a relationship between a noun or pronoun and some other word in the sentence.

The knight **on** the dragon called for help.

Preposition  
↑

Here the preposition **on** shows the relationship between *knight* and *dragon*. In the sentences below, notice how each preposition expresses a different relationship between the knight and the dragon.

The knight is **under** the dragon.

The knight is **above** the dragon.

The knight is **beside** the dragon.

The knight is **in** the dragon.

**A prepositional phrase consists of a preposition, its object, and any modifiers of the object.**

The object of the preposition is the noun or pronoun following the preposition.

A Chinese New Year dragon is a symbol **of** strength.

Preposition → object ←

People drape silk **over** a bamboo dragon.

Preposition → modifier → object ←

Fifty people walk **under** the enormous dragon.



Use **between** when the object of the preposition refers to two people or things. Use **among** when speaking of three or more.

The dragon weaved **between** two boys.

The dragon weaved **among** the crowd.

### Preposition or Adverb?

Sometimes the same word can be used as a preposition or as an adverb. If the word has no object then it is an adverb.

The bamboo dragon toppled **over** a curb.

Preposition → object ←

The bamboo dragon toppled **over**.

adverb ←

**Object:** objects **receive** the action and usually follow the verb...can be word or phrase.

**Modifier:** Typically the modifier can be removed without affecting the grammar of the sentence

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**A. Practice and Apply**

Write the preposition in each sentence, along with its object.

1. Dragons from different cultures have their own characteristics
2. The Eastern female dragon holds a fan with her tail.
3. The Chinese show most dragons without wings.
4. Swallows are among the Chinese dragons' favorite foods.
5. In Chinese mythology, nine dragons keep the Kowloon waters safe from harm.
6. Japanese dragons have three toes on each claw.
7. Western dragons are usually associated with evil.
8. Many tales pit brave knights against fierce dragons.
9. Two catlike wings lift the dragon above its victim.
10. Some breeds of Western dragons can change their shapes.
11. The helmeted iguana is a lizard that reminds people of a small dragon.
12. The iguana has a tall crest on the nape of its neck.
13. The crest shortens and tapers at its back.
14. A shorter crest runs the length of the iguana's body.
15. The helmeted iguana has a slender body with long legs.

**Using Prepositions**

If dragons could talk, this one might be saying, "Ha! I want you in my belly!" What might the man reply?" Write seven sentences answering the dragon's threat. Tell the dragon what you will do or where you will hide. Express your fear or your bravery!

Write the dragon's response using five prepositions from the following list.  
at, behind, below, by, for, in , into , off, on, out, to, up, with, without (at least seven sentences.)

