

Presentation Exercise: Grammar Preview 2 (Prepositions)

Fill in the Blanks. Prepositions are small words which indicate _____, _____, _____, and the like.

Matching. Match each part of speech to its use or example

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| 1. Article | A. modifies a verb |
| 2. Conjunction | B. shows how a noun relates to the sentence |
| 3. Adverb | C. expresses a strong emotion |
| 4. Preposition | D. “the” or “a” |
| 5. Interjection | E. links words or phrases |

Circle the prepositions in the list below:

Because of	In	An	Since
The	Now	But	Soon
Oh	Beside	Down	Go

True or False. The basic function of prepositions is to show how a verb relates to the rest of the sentence.

Fill in the Blanks. The word “preposition” means literally “pre-“ meaning _____ and “-position” meaning _____, because a preposition almost always precedes its object.

True or False. Prepositional phrases modify or describe something else in their sentence.

True or False. A preposition can take more than one object.

Multiple Choice. Prepositions must be followed by one or more ____.

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| 1. Adverbs | 3. Nouns |
| 2. Conjunctions | 4. Verbs |

Circle the prepositions in the following sentences and put the prepositional phrase in parentheses:

1. I walked into the house.
2. When in Rome eat lasagna.
3. With suffering comes wisdom.
4. They waded out of the ocean.

Circle the prepositions in the following paragraphs and put the prepositional phrase in parentheses:

Publius Vergilius Maro, a name with Etruscan overtones, was born in the small village of Andes near Mantua in October of 70 BCE. His father came from humble origins but attained enough social status that he could give the best possible education to his son. Initially Vergil dabbled in rhetoric and law but abandoned them over time.

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When he was in his early twenties, civil war broke out between the Roman generals Caesar and Pompey and ended in the latter's defeat at the Battle of Pharsalus. Politics quickly developed into a dangerous and inadvisable career path. Vergil turned instead to poetry, imitating the new style of verse seen in his contemporary Catullus' work.

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Vergil's first important publication, *The Eclogues* ("Selections"), imitated the pastoral poems of a Greek poet Theocritus. It was very successful, establishing his reputation among poets and opening the door for him to begin work on a longer poem in four books, *The Georgics* ("Farming").

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In accordance with the tastes of his day, *The Eclogues* and *The Georgics* followed the style of later Greek verse in terms of both their sentiment and execution. For example, they have Greek, not Latin titles. While neither runs anywhere near the length of Homer's epics, Vergil took a long time publishing them because of his perfectionism.

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A meticulous worker, he revised and revised a line until it suited his taste to perfection. Thus, he composed these poems at the rate of about one line per day. While he was, in his own words, "licking this poetry into shape," the Roman world about him was exploding into war.

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Julius Caesar's assassination in 44 BCE had left Rome broken into two factions, one supporting Caesar and the other detesting and reviling his legacy. Caesar's lieutenant Mark Antony and the assassins Brutus and Cassius assembled their legions at Philippi in eastern Macedonia, and when the battle was over, the pro-Caesarians had won.

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But Antony had no time to relish this victory. Caesar's great nephew and heir, Octavian, stepped to the foreground of Roman politics and forced Antony out of Rome, who subsequently sought support from Egypt and Caesar's former ally, Cleopatra VII, a distant descendant of Alexander's general Ptolemy. Octavian's and Antony's conflict quickly escalated.

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In a naval battle off Actium on the western shore of Greece, Octavian defeated Antony and Cleopatra who later committed suicide. With both these threats erased, Octavian assumed the title Augustus meaning "the Holy One" and consolidated his hold on the Roman state, imposing peace through force.

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The Battle of Actium inaugurated an empire which endured for over five hundred years. Amidst this upheaval all the carnage and chaos Vergil witnessed left him with a dark view of human life, a scar amply visible in the many sorrows his poems describe.