

# Prepositions

Prepositions are little words – but especially important words – on the SAT, ACT and in your writing. Prepositions locate things in time and place. They generally appear in sentences within structures we call “prepositional phrases.” A prepositional phrase is a preposition with a noun that follows. Prepositional phrases will NEVER include the subject of a sentence. Prepositional phrases are strictly accessories used to decorate the subject containing sentence.

Recognizing prepositions will also help you strip sentences to identify subject-verb agreement problems (*Check out the Subject/Verb Agreement Handout in KeyInfo*).

List of prepositions:

About	Above	Amid	Around
Against	Along	Before	Behind
	At	Beside	Between
Below	Beneath	By	
Beyond		Except	For
Down	In	Inside	Into
From	Near	Of*	Off
Like	Onto	Opposite	Out
On	Over	Past	
Outside	To	Toward	Under
Through	Upon	With	Within
Until	Across	After	Underneath

## Key Strategy

Since prepositions give location, a trick to recognizing most prepositions is to think about whether the word relates to an item such as a BOX. Examples: *on* the box, *in* the box, *beneath* the box, *against* the box. The trick doesn't work as well for the following 11 prepositions: *as*, *like*, *since*, *despite*, *except*, *with*, *until*, *during*, *to*, *of*, *for*. These words you need to memorize because they don't relate to a box!