

Relations shown by prepositions

Prepositions show various kinds of relations. The most important among them are the following:

Place

She ran across the street.

The boy fell among the thorns.

We were at the foot of the hill.

The thief was hiding behind the cupboard.

Time

I have a meeting in the afternoon.

You must return before sunset.

Wait till tomorrow.

We waited for hours.

Method and manner

The letter came by post.

He cut the cake with a knife.

They fought with courage.

They succeeded by hard work.

Reason and Purpose

She died of malaria.

He trembled with anger.

Smoking is injurious to health.

Possession

He is a man of principles.

Mumbai is the financial capital of India.

I saw a boy with red hair.

Direction and Motion

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He fell into the well.

He climbed up the tree.

She walked towards the market.

The moon moves around the earth.

Objects of prepositions

The object of a preposition may be a noun, a pronoun, a gerund, an infinitive or a noun clause.

The house was built near a river. (Noun)

She was talking to him. (Pronoun)

We were prevented from entering the house. (Gerund)

What would you like to do besides watch a movie? (Infinitive)

I am content with what I have. (Noun clause)