

THE OBJECT OF THE PREPOSITION

Recognize the object of the preposition when you find one.

Prepositions often begin **prepositional phrases**. To complete the phrase, the preposition teams up with a **noun, pronoun, or gerund**—the *object* of the preposition.

Here are examples:

At **noon**

At = preposition; **noon** = noun (the *object* of the preposition).

Behind **them**

Behind = preposition; **them** = pronoun (the *object* of the preposition).

Without **sneezing**

Without = preposition; **sneezing** = gerund (the *object* of the preposition).

The object of the preposition will often have **modifiers** that add description:

At the kitchen **counter**

At = preposition; **the, kitchen** = modifiers; **counter** = noun (the *object* of the preposition).

Between **us** only

Between = preposition; **us** = pronoun (the *object* of the preposition); **only** = modifier.

Without completely **finishing**

Without = preposition; **completely** = modifier; **finishing** = gerund (the *object* of the preposition).

Infrequently, a **noun clause** will be the object of the preposition, as in this example:

In class today, we talked about **what Professor Duncan expects in our next research essay**.

About = preposition; **what Professor Duncan expects in our next research essay** = noun clause (the *object* of the preposition).

