

# The Preposition

**3h.** A **preposition** is a word that shows the relationship of a noun or pronoun to another word.

**EXAMPLE** The dog jumped **through** the hoop.

**EXERCISE A** Underline the preposition in each of the following sentences.

**Example 1.** This article about oceans is surprisingly interesting.

- The bottom of the ocean is very dark.
- In most places, it is also cold.
- However, in some places the ocean floor is warm.
- One such place is near the Galapagos Islands.
- Scientists discovered a crack in the ocean floor.
- They found that heat poured from this crack.
- The heat was rising from the earth.
- Many plants and animals lived around this spot.
- Tiny bacteria lived near giant worms.
- These life forms lived eight thousand feet below the water's surface.

**EXERCISE B** Write a preposition that correctly completes the blank in each of the following sentences.

**Example 1.** My pet lizard ran behind the door.

- Should the dog be allowed \_\_\_\_\_ the sofa?
- You will find a patch of flowers \_\_\_\_\_ the bridge.
- Please store the fruit \_\_\_\_\_ the vegetables, Gary.
- \_\_\_\_\_ the water, I saw a faint light glowing.
- I finished the race several seconds \_\_\_\_\_ Jay.
- Both cats came racing \_\_\_\_\_ the corner.
- Did your parents park the car \_\_\_\_\_ the building?
- The squirrel quickly climbed the trunk \_\_\_\_\_ the tree.
- \_\_\_\_\_ the beginning of the school year, we have been assigned to the same seats.
- The runner \_\_\_\_\_ me almost tripped just before the finish line.

## Prepositional Phrases

A **prepositional phrase** includes a preposition, a noun or pronoun called the **object of the preposition**, and any modifiers of that object.

**EXAMPLE** Dr. Okana peered **through the huge telescope**. [*Through* is the preposition, and *telescope* is the object of the preposition. The adjectives *the* and *huge* modify *telescope*.]

**EXERCISE A** Underline the prepositional phrase in each sentence. Then, circle the preposition.

**Example 1.** I looked for a key under the muddy doormat.

1. A copper-colored snake slithered along the rotting log.
2. During a crisis David sometimes loses his temper.
3. The pigs found their food under the shallow water.
4. That ancient bridge was built 155 feet above the Gard River.
5. The newscaster slipped on the ice as he hurried along.

**EXERCISE B** Prepositional phrases can be used to add interesting information to sentences. Add prepositional phrases to the following sentences. Rewrite the sentences on the lines provided.

**Example 1.** We sailed slowly.

*At dawn, we sailed slowly through the rocky channel.*

6. The frightened soldier hid. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Canditha wore a beautiful scarf. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. Suddenly, the prisoners heard a faint scratching noise. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. The creature had hideous green tentacles. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. The noisy helicopter landed. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_