

# The Object of a Preposition

Recognize an *object of a preposition* when you see one.

Prepositions often begin prepositional phrases. To complete the phrase, the preposition usually teams up with a noun, pronoun, or gerund, or the *object* of the preposition. Here are some examples:

At noon

**At** = preposition; **noon** = noun or the *object* of the preposition.

Behind them

**Behind** = preposition; **them** = pronoun or the *object* of the preposition.

Without sneezing

**Without** = preposition; **sneezing** = gerund or 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 or the *object* of the preposition.

Between us only

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

Without completely finishing

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

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

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

**About** = preposition; **what Mr. Duncan expects in our next research essay** = noun clause or the *object* of the preposition.

