

# The Preposition

- 1f.** A **preposition** shows the relationship of a noun or pronoun, called the **object of the preposition**, to another word.

A preposition, its object, and any modifiers of the object form a **prepositional phrase**.

**EXAMPLES** The spider is walking **across its web**. [*Across* is the preposition; *web* is the object of the preposition.]

**According to the weather report**, the snow should begin falling soon. [*According to* is the preposition; *weather report* is the object of the preposition.]

**EXERCISE A** In the following sentences, underline each preposition once and each object of the preposition twice. Some sentences have more than one prepositional phrase.

**Example 1.** In spite of the rough terrain, the Incas built an empire among the Andes Mountains.

- The Incas of South America offered gifts to their gods.
- The Incas worshiped the mountain gods along with the sun.
- If the gods viewed the Incas favorably, crops would be abundant during harvest.
- Beneath the rocky mountain soil, archaeologists discovered small silver statues.
- The figures were made of seashells and dressed in clothing like that worn by Inca women.
- Machu Picchu, a fortress city surrounded by terraced gardens, was not discovered until 1911.
- Cuzco, which is near Machu Picchu, was the capital of the ancient Incan civilization.
- On the slopes of Mount Ampato in 1995, anthropologist Johan Reinhard and his friend Miguel Zarate found the frozen mummy of a teenage girl.
- According to a textile expert, she wore a shawl that was the best-preserved example of Incan clothing ever found.
- Andean people today maintain a reverent attitude toward the Andes Mountains.

**EXERCISE B** In the space above each of the following sentences, add at least one prepositional phrase. Use a caret (^) to mark where the phrases are inserted.

*In addition to new gloves, for winter*  
**Example 1.** ^ I would like a new coat. ^

- Someone sneezed loudly.
- I will read three books.
- Bring me the wrench and a hammer.
- Who will answer this question?
- We have fed and watered the livestock.