

The Preposition

- 12c.** A **preposition** is a word that shows the relationship of a noun or pronoun, called the **object of the preposition**, to another word.

A preposition that consists of more than one word is called a **compound preposition**.

EXAMPLES The leader **of** the scout troop led the scouts **out of** the woods. [*Troop* is the object of the preposition *of*, and *woods* is the object of the compound preposition *out of*.]

EXERCISE A Underline the prepositions in the following sentences.

Example 1. Before the hike, the scouts checked the supplies in their backpacks.

- The scout troop went on a hike.
- They climbed to the top of Mount Milligan.
- The climb up the mountain was long and difficult.
- They crossed over a stream and under fallen trees.
- During the hike a few scouts went off the trail.
- Boulders had fallen on the trail from a cliff.
- They went either around the fallen rocks or between them.
- There is a great deal of wildlife on the ground and under the brush.
- On account of snakes, hikers should stay on the trail at all times.
- The climb down the mountain took them in front of the lodge.

EXERCISE B Underline the compound preposition in each of the following sentences. Then, circle the object of the preposition.

Example 1. Lars and I decided to go to the library instead of the bookstore.

- We found the biographies next to the mysteries.
- The seasonal books were in front of them.
- According to Mr. Wu, some books were not seasonal.
- They were there because of a space problem.
- I borrowed the Sue Grafton mystery in spite of its torn cover.
- A bird book was the only book I liked aside from that.
- I did not check out the World Series history on account of Lars.
- Lars checked out that sports book along with a poetry collection.
- As of last Friday, I had read ten books this month alone.
- I read Richard Peck's latest novel in addition to Barbara Kingsolver's first book.