

The Preposition

14f. 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.