## THE PREPOSITION

368. Read

1. There is a cow in the field.
2. He is fond of tea.
3. The cat jumped of the chair.

In sentence 1, the word in shows the relation between two things - cow and field.

In sentence 2, the word of shows the relation between the attribute expressed by the adjective fond and tea.

In sentence 3, the word off shows the relation between the action expressed by the verb jumped and the chair.

The words in, of, off are here used as Prepositions.

Def.- A Preposition is a word placed before a noun or a pronoun to show in what relation the person or thing denoted by it stands in regard to something else.

[The word Preposition means 'that which is placed before'.]

It will be noticed that- in sentence I, the Preposition joins a Noun to another Noun; in sentence 2, the Preposition joins a Noun to an Adjective; in sentence 3, the Preposition joins a Noun to a Verb.

1. The Noun or Pronoun which is used with a Preposition is called its Object. It is in the Accusative case and is said to be governed by the Preposition.

Thus, in sentence 1, the noun field is in the Accusative case, governed by the Preposition in.

1. A Preposition may have two or more objects; as, The road runs over hill and plain.

1. A Preposition is usually placed before its object, but sometimes it follows it; as, 1. Here is the watch that you asked for.
2. That is the boy (whom) I was speaking of.
3. What are you looking at?
4. What arc you thinking of?
5. Which of these chairs did you sit on?

Note 1.- When the object is the Relative Pronoun that, as in sentence 1, the Preposition is always placed at the end.

The Preposition is- often placed at the end when the object is an interrogative pronoun (as in sentences 3, 4 and 5) or a Relative pronoun understood (as in sentence 2).

Note 2.- Sometimes the object is placed first for the sake of emphasis; as, This I insist on. He is known all the world over.

372. The Prepositions for, from, in, on are often omitted before nouns of place or time; as,

We did it last week.

I cannot walk a yard.

Wait a minute.

### Kinds of Prepositions

1. Prepositions may be arranged in the following classes :- At, by, for, from, in, of, off, on, out, through, till, to, up, with.
2. **Compound Prepositions** which are generally formed by prefixing a Preposition (usually a = no or be = by) to a Noun, an Adjective or an Adverb.) About, above, across, along, amidst, among, amongst, around, before, behind, below, beneath, beside, between, beyond, inside, outside, underneath, within, without.

1. **Phrase Prepositions** (Groups of words used with the force of a single preposition.) according to -- in accordance with -- in place of agreeably to -- in addition to -- in reference to along with -- in (on) behalf of -- in regard to away from -- in case of -- in spite of because of -- in comparison to -- instead of by dint of -- in compliance with -- in the event of by means of -- in consequence of -- on account of by reason of -- in course of -- owing to by virtue of -- in favour of -- with a view to by way of -- in front of -- with an eye to conformably to -- in lieu of -- with reference to for the sake of -- in order to -- with regard to

He succeeded by dint of perseverance and sheer hard work.

In case of need 'phone to No. 32567.

By virtue of the power vested in me, I hereby order, etc.

In consequence of his illness he could not finish the work in time.

Owing to his ill health, he retired from business.

With reference to your letter of date, we regret we cannot allow any further rebate.

In order to avoid litigation, he accepted Rs. 300 in full settlement of his claim for Rs.

450.

In course of time he saw his mistake.

He died fighting on behalf of his country.

On behalf of the staff he read the address.

He persevered in spite of difficulties.

In the event of 'his dying without an issue, his nephew would inherit the whole property.

Instead of talking, prove your worth by doing something.

By reason of his perverse attitude, he estranged his best friends.

He acted according to my instructions.

Why don't you go along with your brother?

In accordance with your instructions, we have remitted the 'amount to your bankers.

There is a big tree in front of his house.

Agreeably to the terms of the settlement, we herewith enclose our cheque for Rs. 1000.

By way of introduction, he made some pertinent remarks.

By means o/rope ladders they scaled the wall.

For the sake of their beliefs, the Puritans emigrated to America.

In course of his researches he met with many difficulties.

He abdicated the throne in favour of his eldest son.

He could not attend school because of his father's serious illness.

He accepted the car in lieu of his claim for Rs. 1,25,000.

With a view to an amicable settlement, we offer you without prejudice Rs. 750 in full settlement of all your claims up-to-date.

On account of his negligence the company suffered a heavy loss.

Whatever he does, he does with an eye to the main chance.

374. Barring, concerning, considering, during, notwithstanding, pending, regarding, respecting, touching, and a few similar words which are present participles of verbs, are used absolutely with out any noun or pronoun being attached to them. For all practical purposes, they have become Prepositions, and are sometimes distinguished as Participial Prepositions.

Barring (= excepting apart from) accident, the mail will arrive tomorrow.

Concerning (= about) yesterday's fire, there are many rumours in the bazar.

Considering (= taking into account the quality, the price is not high.

Ulysses is said to have invented the game of chess during the siege of Troy. Notwithstanding (= in spite of) the resistance offered by him, he was arrested by the police.

Pending further orders. Mr. Desai will act as Headmaster.

Regarding your inquiries regret to say that at present we are not interested in imitation silk.

Respecting the plan you mention, I shall write to you hereafter.

Touching (= with regard to) this matter, 1 have not as yet made up my mind.

375. Several words are used sometimes as Adverbs and some times as Prepositions A word is a Preposition when it governs a noun or pronoun; it is an Adverb when it does not.

## Adverb

Go and run about.

I could not come before.

Has he come in?

The wheel came off.

Let us move on.

His father arrived soon.

Take this parcel over to the post-office. I have not seen him since.

## Preposition

Don't loiter about the street.

I came the day before yesterday.

Is he his room?

The driver jumped off the car.

The book lies on the table.

After a month he returned.

He rules over a vast empire.

I have not slept since yesterday.

## Relations expressed by Prepositions

381. The following are some of the most common relations indicated by Prepositions:-

(1) Place; as,

Went about the world; ran across the road; leaned against a wall; fell among thieves; quarrelled among themselves; at death's door; athwart the deck; stood before the door; stood behind the curtain; lies below the surface; sat beside me; plies between Mumbai and Alibag; stand by me rain comes from the clouds; in the sky; fell into a ditch; lies near his heart; Kolkata is on the Hooghly; the cliff hangs over the sea; tour round the world; marched through the town; came to the end of the road; put pen to paper; travelled towards Nasik; lay under the table; climbed up the ladder; lies upon the table; within the house; stood without the gate.

(2)Time; as,

After his death; at an early date.; arrived before me,; behind time; by three o'clock; during the whole day; for many years; from 1st April; in the afternoon; sat watching far on into the night; lived under the' Moghuls; on Monday; pending his return; since yesterday .; lasted through the night; throughout the year; wait till to-morrow; ten minutes to twelve; towards evening; until his arrival; rise with the sun; within a month.

1. Agency, instrumentality; as,

Sell goods at auction; sent the parcel by post; was stunned by a blow; was destroyed by fire; heard this through a friend; cut it with a knife.

1. Manner; as,

Dying by inches; fought with courage; worked with earnestness, won with ease.

1. Cause, reason, purpose; as,

Laboured for the good of humanity; died of fever; the very place for a picnic; did it/or our good; suffers from gout; died from fatigue; does it from perversity; retreated through fear of an ambush; concealed it through shame; lost his purse through negligence; shivers with fever; took medicine for cold.

1. Possession; as,

There was no money on him; the mosque of Omar; a man of means; the boy with red hair.

1. Measure, standard, rate, value; as,

He charges interest at nine per cent. Stories like these must be taken at what they are worth. Cloth is sold by the yard. I am taller than you by two inches. It was one by the tower-clock.

1. Contrast, concession; as,

After (in spite of, notwithstanding) every effort, one may fail. For one enemy he has a hundred friends. For (in spite of) all his wealth he is not content. With (in spite of) all his faults I admire him.

1. Inference, motive, source, or origin; as,

From what I know of him, I hesitate to trust him. The knights were brave from gallantry of sprit. He did it from gratitude. Light emanates from the sun. From labour health, from health contentment springs. This is a quotation from Milton. His skill comes from practice.

Note:- It will be see?& that the same Preposition, according to the way m which it is used, would have its place under several heads:

## WORDS FOLLOWED BY PREPOSITIONS

384. Certain Verbs, Nouns, Adjectives, and Participles are always followed by particular Prepositions. Read the following sentences, noting appropriate Prepositions:- Mumbai is famous for its textiles.

The goat subsists on the coarsest of food.

Jawaharlal Nehru was fond of children.

India is a noble, gorgeous land, teeming with natural wealth.

Being apprised of our approach, the whole neighbourhood came out to meet their minister.

In the classical age the ideal life of the Brahman was divided into four stages or ashrams.

It is natural in every man to wish for distinction.

He was endowed with gifts fitted to win eminence in any field of human activity.

The writer is evidently enamoured of the subject.

These computers are cheap enough to be accessible to most people.

Ambition does not always conduce to ultimate happiness.

The true gentleman is courteous and affable to his neighbours.

Newly acquired freedom is sometimes liable to abuse.

Little Jack proved quite a match for the giant.

The African elephant is now confined to Central Africa.

Camels are peculiarly adapted to life in the desert.

He is a man of deep learning, but totally ignorant of life and manners.

The income derived from the ownership of land is commonly called rent.

The Moors were famous for their learning and their skill in all kinds of industries.

Alexander profited by the dissensions of the Punjab Rajas.

Few things are impossible to diligence and skill.

I am indebted to you for your help.

Ashoka, although tolerant of competing creeds, was personally an ardent Buddhist.

The celebrated grammarian Patanjali was a contemporary of Pushyamitra Sunga.

Ivory readily adapts itself to the carver's art.

Coleridge's poetry is remarkable/or the perfection of its execution.

The holy tree is associated with scenes of goodwill and rejoicing.

The noise from downstairs prevented me from sleeping.

I am already acquainted with the latest developments of the situation.

His duties were of a kind ill-suited to his ardent and daring character.

Man is entirely different from other animals in the utter helplessness of his babyhood.

A residence of eight years in Sri Lanka had inured his system to the tropical climate. The ancient Greeks, though born in a warm climate, seem to have been much addicted to the bottle.

He (Dr. Johnson) was somewhat susceptible to flattery.

A man who always connives at the faults of his children is their worst enemy.

Naples was then destitute o/what are now, perhaps, its chief attractions.

The cat appears to have originated in Egypt or in the East.

Judged by its results the policy of Hastings was eminently successful.

In his work Charak often hints at the value of sweet oil.

There is still no cure for the common cold.

It was formerly supposed that malaria was due to poisonous exhalations. People who are averse to hard work, generally do not succeed in life.