

# The Preposition

**1f.** A **preposition** is a word that shows the relationship of a noun or pronoun to another word.

The noun or pronoun that a preposition relates another word to is called the *object of the preposition*.

**EXAMPLES** I went **to** the new card shop **in** the mall. [The preposition *to* relates its object, *shop*, to the verb *went*. The preposition *in* relates its object, *mall*, to the noun *shop*.]

The card shop is located **next to** the bookstore. [The compound preposition *next to* shows the relationship of its object, *bookstore*, to the verb phrase *is located*.]

**EXERCISE** In the following sentences, underline each preposition and draw an arrow from the preposition to its object.

**Example 1.** I recently read about the origin of greeting cards.

1. In 1840, the British issued the first postage stamps.
2. Prior to this innovation, the recipient usually was responsible for the postage.
3. Thus, mail service was used mainly by the wealthy.
4. However, the new “penny post” made mail delivery affordable for most people.
5. Soon, people throughout Britain were sending each other greeting cards.
6. Greeting cards became popular in the United States also.
7. People bought Christmas cards and valentines from individual designers.
8. Joyce Hall, who earned a living with his picture postcards, founded a card company.
9. Over the years, Hall’s company has grown into a successful business.
10. Today, in addition to Hall’s company, many other card companies sell greeting cards.
11. Seemingly, there is a card for every occasion.
12. As I look through card racks, I am usually drawn to the humor section.
13. When I read the cover of a humorous card, I enjoy guessing what the funny verse inside the card will say.
14. During this past summer, my family got a computer.
15. Along with the computer came software that enables me to create greeting cards.
16. I sent the first birthday card I created to my pen pal in the Philippines.
17. Across the card’s cover, I wrote *HAPPY BIRTHDAY!*
18. I replaced the *I* in *BIRTHDAY* with a picture of a candle.
19. Then I placed a cake under the words so that they all looked like decorations on it.
20. Inside the card was a funny verse amid small pictures of wrapped gifts.