SLAC PREPOSITION AID

Prepositions

There are more than 100 prepositions in English. Yet this is a very small number when you think of the thousands of other words (nouns, verbs etc). Prepositions are important words. We use individual prepositions more frequently than other individual words. In fact, the prepositions of, to and in are among the ten most frequent words in English.

The name "preposition" (pre + position) means "place before". Prepositions usually come before another word, usually a noun or noun phrase:

- noun
- pronoun
- noun phrase
- gerund (verb in -ing form)

If a *preposition* does not come before **another word**, it is still closely linked to another word:

- **Who** did you talk *to*?
- **To whom** did you talk?
- I talked to Jane.

Below are some pages with lists of prepositions and example sentences.

- Short List of Prepositions
- Full List of Prepositions
- Prepositions of Place
- Prepositions of Time

Many prepositions can also be adverbs:

- They are *in* the kitchen. (preposition)
- Please come **in**. (adverb)

A few prepositions can also be conjunctions:

- Everyone came *but* Tara. (preposition)
- I asked her **but** she didn't answer. (conjunction)

Google: Prepositions: Choose: Prepositions English Club

Melinda Gandaria Student Learning Assistance Center San Antonio College San Antonio, TX 78212 June 2012