

Prepositions Dice Game

Explanation

Prepositional phrases allow us to be precise about time, direction and place (or position). A prepositional phrase is usually made up of a preposition (under) followed by a noun phrase or pronoun (under the table). If we add prepositional phrases to our sentences, the reader has more information about the time or position of the event being described.

The car skidded.

The car skidded across the slippery surface.

Note: when prepositional phrases are used at the start of the sentence, they can function as fronted adverbials. Across the slippery surface, the car skidded.

Players: 2

You will need: a 1-6 dice, a dice guide for each pair, paper and pens

1. First, player A rolls the dice to pick a main clause (e.g. the creature crawled)
2. Then player A rolls again to pick the type of prepositional phrase that they must add to the main clause. (If player A rolls a 4, they must add a 'direction' prepositional phrase e.g. Towards the grey mountain, the creature crawled.)
3. Now it is the turn of player B to carry out steps 1 and 2.

4. Keep playing until both players are confident at adding prepositional phrases to main clauses.

Challenge yourself! Use the Challenge version so that players will have to add more adventurous prepositional phrases to different positions in the sentence. Can they add more than one prepositional phrase?

Support (If this is new to you or you would like some practise) ! Use the Support version so that players only have to think about 'when?' and 'where?' using a more limited choice of prepositions to create phrases.

Add a prepositional phrase (standard version)

First roll to pick a main clause.

Number	Main clause
1	she carried the heavy bag
2	he hid
3	the creature crawled
4	she leaped
5	he relaxed
6	they began their long journey

Now roll to pick a type of preposition and use it to make a phrase.

Number	Type of preposition	Examples (Do you need to add other things to the sentence to help it make sense?)
1	When did the action happen?	in, at, on, after, before
2		Examples: <i>After lunch, he hid.</i> <i>He relaxed before the race.</i>
3	In which direction did the action happen?	up, down, across, along, around, over, through, into, out of, towards
4		Examples: <i>Down into the underground, the creature crawled.</i> <i>She leaped through the dirty glass.</i>
5	Where did the action happen?	above, at, behind, below, beneath, near, beside, between, next to, on, under, in, opposite, underneath, outside, inside, over
6		Examples: <i>He hid beneath the bed.</i> <i>On the large cushions, he relaxed.</i>

Add a prepositional phrase (Challenge yourself!)

First roll to pick a main clause.

Number	Main clause
1	she carried the heavy bag
2	he hid
3	the creature was captured
4	the pine trees stood
5	he relaxed
6	they began their long journey

Now roll to pick a type of prepositional phrase.

Number	Type of prepositional phrase	Examples
1 or 2	Prepositional phrases of time <i>When did the action happen?</i>	in, at, on, after, before, prior to, during the, the following, from _____ to _____, since, until, within <i>From sunrise to sunset, he relaxed.</i>
3 or 4	Prepositional phrases of direction <i>In which direction did the action happen?</i>	up, down, across, along, around, over, through, into, out of, towards, away from the _____, towards the _____, around the edge of the _____, along the _____, <i>She leaped away from the snapping jaws.</i>
5 or 6	Prepositional phrases of position <i>Where exactly did the action happen?</i>	above, at, behind, below, beneath, near, beside, between, next to, on, under, in, opposite, underneath, outside, inside, over, parallel to, adjacent to, beyond, up against, close to, by the, past the, in between <i>Parallel to the deserted car park, the pine trees stood.</i>

Can you add another prepositional phrase of your choice to extend the sentence even further?

Add a prepositional phrase (Support)

First roll to pick a main clause.

Number	Main clause
1	she picked up her bag
2	he hid
3	the creature crawled
4	she leaped
5	he relaxed
6	they ran

Now roll to pick a type of preposition to add to your sentence.

Number	Type of prepositional phrase	Examples
ODD (1,3,5)	When?	in, at, on, after, before Examples: <i>After lunch, he hid.</i> <i>He relaxed before the race.</i>
EVEN (2,4,6)	Where?	above, at, behind, below, near, beside, between, next to, on, under, in, outside, inside, over Examples: <i>He hid under the bed.</i> <i>He relaxed on the sofa.</i>