Modifiers in Comparisons

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Comparative</th>
<th>Superlative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>far</td>
<td>farthest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shiny</td>
<td>shiniest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>useful</td>
<td>most useful</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>intelligent</td>
<td>most intelligent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>happily</td>
<td>most happily</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>good</td>
<td>best</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bad</td>
<td>worst</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Avoiding Double Forms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Double Negative</th>
<th>Fix</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>we can’t never</td>
<td>we can never, we can’t</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>we don’t hardly</td>
<td>we hardly, we don’t</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Double Comparison

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fix</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>better</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>luckiest</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Bottom Line

Checklist for Adjectives and Adverbs

- Have I remembered to...
  - use adjectives to fine-tune my nouns?
  - capitalize proper adjectives?
  - use adverbs to fine-tune descriptions of actions?
  - use correct forms of adverbs and adjectives in comparisons?
  - avoid double negatives?
Theme: Bugs!

Little Things Mean a Lot

What would you say if you came face to face with this bug? You might express yourself with a small but powerful interjection like the one in the balloon above. Like bugs, interjections, conjunctions, and prepositions are often small but powerful. They not only express emotion but also connect other words and show relationships between words.

Write Away: What Bugs You?
Recall a time when you were up close and personal with a bug. Was the bug disgusting? fascinating? weird? beautiful, perhaps? Write a short paragraph about your bug. Save the paragraph in your Working Portfolio.
Diagnostic Test: What Do You Know?

Choose the letter of the term that correctly identifies each underlined item.

Bugs! Ugh! Do you shriek **in horror** when you see bugs? Many people are terrified of **bugs**. Their alien shapes inspire fear, and the way they swarm **around their target** often causes panic. Bugs include **both** 700,000 known species of insects and more than 30,000 known species of spiders. Ecologists are glad that bugs live among us. Their contributions **to the environment** are important. For example, bees pollinate flowers. Bugs may seem strange, but life as we know it would be impossible **without** them.

1. A. preposition  B. interjection  C. conjunction  D. adverb
2. A. preposition  B. object of a preposition  C. prepositional phrase  D. interjection
3. A. preposition  B. object of a preposition  C. conjunction  D. interjection
4. A. coordinating conjunction  B. correlative conjunction  C. adjective phrase  D. preposition
5. A. conjunction  B. interjection  C. adjective phrase  D. adverb phrase
6. A. preposition  B. object of a preposition  C. coordinating conjunction  D. correlative conjunction
7. A. preposition  B. interjection  C. coordinating conjunction  D. prepositional phrase
8. A. conjunction  B. interjection  C. adjective phrase  D. adverb phrase
9. A. coordinating conjunction  B. correlative conjunction  C. preposition  D. interjection
10. A. interjection  B. preposition  C. object of a preposition  D. adjective
Here's the Idea

A preposition is a word that shows a relationship between a noun or pronoun and some other word in the sentence. A preposition is always followed by an object, either a noun or a pronoun.

The article **about** insects is interesting.

Here, the preposition *about* shows the relationship between the words *article* and *insects*. In the sentences below, notice how each preposition expresses a different relationship between the worm and the apple.

The worm is **on** the apple.

The worm is **beside** the apple.

The worm is **under** the apple.

The worm is **in** the apple.

### Common Prepositions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>about</th>
<th>at</th>
<th>despite</th>
<th>like</th>
<th>to</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>above</td>
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<td>near</td>
<td>toward</td>
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<td>of</td>
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<td>until</td>
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<td>for</td>
<td>on</td>
<td>up</td>
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<td>among</td>
<td>between</td>
<td>in</td>
<td>over</td>
<td>within</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>around</td>
<td>beyond</td>
<td>inside</td>
<td>past</td>
<td>without</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>as</td>
<td>by</td>
<td>into</td>
<td>through</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Prepositional Phrases

- A prepositional phrase consists of a preposition, its object, and any modifiers of the object. The object of the preposition is the noun or pronoun following the preposition.

PREPOSITIONAL PHRASE

**Some peoples have depicted insects in art.**

PREPOSITION \ OBJECT

**Beetle images decorate the jewelry of many cultures.**

PREPOSITION \ MODIFIER \ OBJECT

**Some believed that dreams come from a butterfly.**

Use *between* when the object of the preposition refers to two people or things. Use *among* when speaking of three or more.

- Ants share food *between two nestmates.*
- Ants share food *among all the colony members.*

Preposition or Adverb?

Sometimes the same word can be used as a preposition or as an adverb. If the word has no object, then it is an adverb.

PREPOSITIONAL PHRASE

**The ant scurried out the door.**

PREPOSITION \ OBJECT

**The ant scurried out.**

ADVERB

For more on adverbs, see pp. 134–136.
2 Why It Matters in Writing

Use prepositional phrases in descriptive writing to add detailed information to sentences. For example, a prepositional phrase can tell an exact location. The prepositional phrases in this model tell where the ant found the grain and where she put it.

LITERARY MODEL

...she had taken it [from the fields] and stowed it away [in a hole in the bank, under a hawthorn bush].

—Aesop, "Ant and Grasshopper," retold by James Reeves

3 Practice and Apply

CONCEPT CHECK: What Is a Preposition?

Write the preposition in each sentence, along with its object.

Smoky the Beetle
1. Some jewel beetles are attracted to forest fires.
2. They can sense a forest fire from 30 miles.
3. Often they fly straight into the flames.
4. Sometimes they swarm around firefighters!
5. With their own infrared detectors, they sense heat.
6. Some scientists now believe that the beetles smell fire through their antennae.
7. Information from the beetles may improve the accuracy of fire alarms.
8. Currently, many fire alarms detect carbon dioxide levels in the air.
9. But the alarms can be fooled by car fumes.
10. Scientists are testing a more accurate alarm that is outfitted with actual insect antennae.

For a SELF-CHECK and more practice, see the EXERCISE BANK, p. 606.
Here's the Idea

A prepositional phrase is always related to another word in a sentence. It modifies the word in the same way an adjective or adverb would.

Adjective Phrases

- An adjective prepositional phrase modifies a noun or a pronoun. Like an adjective, a prepositional phrase can tell which one, how many, or what kind.

  This spider is a type of jumping spider.

  NOUN
  ADJECTIVE PHRASE

  The tiny bug on the windowsill is also a jumping spider.

Adverb Phrases

- An adverb prepositional phrase modifies a verb, an adjective, or an adverb. Like an adverb, a prepositional phrase can tell where, when, how, why, or to what extent.

  Jumping spiders live in many places.

  VERB
  ADVERB PHRASE

  These spiders are famous for their eight eyes.

  ADJECTIVE
  ADVERB PHRASE

  They jump far for their size.

  ADVERB
  ADVERB PHRASE

Several prepositional phrases can work together. Each phrase after the first often modifies the object of the phrase before it.

A spider sat on the tip of a twig in a tree.
Placement of Prepositional Phrases

When you write, try to place each prepositional phrase as close as possible to the word it modifies. Otherwise, you may confuse—or unintentionally amuse—your readers.

Unclear

*With eight hairy legs, the bird chased the spider.*

(This must be the world’s weirdest bird!)

Clear

*The bird chased the spider with eight hairy legs.*

(Now the reader can tell who has the hairy legs!)

2 Why It Matters in Writing

When you write about science, use prepositional phrases to answer such questions as where, how, which one, and what kind. Notice how much information the prepositional phrases supply in the caption of the photograph below.

A jumping spider, photographed while jumping from one berry to another.
A. Concept Check: Using Prepositional Phrases

Write the prepositional phrase in each sentence, along with the word it modifies. Then indicate whether the phrase is an adjective phrase or an adverb phrase. Warning: One sentence contains two prepositional phrases.

Eight-Legged Heroes

1. Nearly 36,000 known kinds of spiders inhabit the earth.
2. Very few spiders are dangerous to people.
4. They also control huge populations of garden pests.
5. The spider, with its many useful qualities, is often helpful.
6. Spiders live in many habitats.
7. Some spiders survive in cold climates.
8. Spiders with brilliant colors are beautiful.
10. The dewdrops usually evaporate by afternoon.

For a self-check and more practice, see the Exercise Bank, p. 606.

B. Writing: Using Prepositional Phrases in Science

Suppose that on a field trip you discovered an interesting spider and took this photograph of it. Write a very detailed description of the spider and of the place where you found it. Use adverb phrases to answer questions like how, when, and where.
Conjunctions

**Here’s the Idea**

A conjunction is a word used to join words or groups of words. Different kinds of conjunctions are used in different ways.

**Coordinating Conjunctions**

A coordinating conjunction connects words used in the same way. The words joined by a conjunction can be subjects, objects, predicates, or any other kind of sentence parts.

- **SUBJECTS**
  - Insects and crustaceans have eyes with many lenses.

- **OBJECTS**
  - Light enters the front or the side of their eyes.

**Common Coordinating Conjunctions**

| and | but | or | nor | yet | so | for |

Use and to connect similar ideas. Use but to contrast ideas.

- Each lens can receive light and form a separate image. (And connects two things each lens can do.)
- Insects’ eyes are smaller than ours, but their vision is more complex. (But contrasts vision in insects and people.)

A greenbottle fly is small, but its eyes contain many lenses.
Correlative Conjunctions

Correlative conjunctions are pairs of words that connect words used in the same way. Like coordinating conjunctions, correlative conjunctions can join subjects, objects, predicates, and other sentence parts.

SUBJECTS

Both flies and mosquitoes have compound eyes.

PREDICATE ADJECTIVES

Their eye lenses are not only long but also cylindrical.

CORRELATIVE CONJUNCTION

Common Correlative Conjunctions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>both . . . and</th>
<th>either . . . or</th>
<th>not only . . . but also</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>neither . . . nor</td>
<td>whether . . . or</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2 Why It Matters in Writing

A writer’s use of the right conjunction helps readers know which words or ideas are joined together and how they relate to each other. Notice how conjunctions in the model connect similar ideas.

PROFESSIONAL MODEL

Insects and spiders have many different kinds of eyes. Some spiders have eight eyes, so they can see in several directions at once. Some insects have two compound eyes and three simple eyes called ocelli.

—S. Lieb

And connects two subjects in the sentence.

So connects two complete ideas.

And connects the two objects of have.
Practice and Apply

A. CONCEPT CHECK: Conjunctions

Write the conjunction in each sentence, along with the words or groups of words that it joins.

Seeing with Electrons
1. To magnify things, optical microscopes make use of lenses and light waves.
2. Light waves show the details of ordinary objects, but the waves are too long to reveal the smallest structures.
3. Electron microscopes open new worlds, for they show smaller details.
4. They use magnetic "lenses" and electron beams instead of light waves.
5. The beams of electrons have only 1/8,000 the wavelength of visible light, so they can show much more detail.
6. Electron microscopes can be scanning or transmission microscopes.
7. Scanning microscopes and transmission microscopes are much more powerful than optical microscopes.
8. Scanning microscopes not only magnify but also produce a TV picture.
9. They can magnify an object over 100,000 times, but transmission microscopes can magnify up to 1 million times.
10. Bugs can keep no secrets from either scanning or transmission microscopes!

⇒ For a SELF-CHECK and more practice, see the EXERCISE BANK, p. 606.

B. REVISIING: Changing Conjunctions

The right conjunctions help you say what you mean. Rewrite the conjunctions so that the meaning is clear.

Catch Me If You Can
Flies always see the swatter but flit away from it. Are flies smart and alert? Which characteristic do they have? They are probably alert but sharp-eyed. Their eyes have many parts, or they can see motion even at the edges of their vision. You can hide the swatter, and the fly might still see it.
Here's the Idea

- An interjection is a word or phrase used to express emotion.

  Hey, look at that bug.
  It's a cockroach! Yuck!

Why It Matters in Writing

Writers often use interjections to express strong emotions, such as concern, terror, anger, and disgust.

Practice and Apply

In the cartoon above, the interjection oh my shows fear, since spiders, scorpions, and insecticides are all dangerous to insects. Try writing your own caption for the cartoon, using at least one interjection. Add your caption to your Working Portfolio.
Using Prepositions to Write about Science

When you write your observations and conclusions in a lab report, the proper use of prepositions can make a difference. Prepositions are especially important if you are describing the physical features of animals or their behavior. In the notebook below, a student has used arrows on her drawing to show the location of certain features. For her field notes, she has used prepositional phrases to express the information shown in her drawing.
2 Practice and Apply

**USING PREPOSITIONS**

For a project on insect metamorphosis, your class has observed videos of caterpillars developing into butterflies and moths. You have taken notes on your observations. Write a summary of your observations using your notes as a guide. Use prepositional phrases to explain details about the caterpillar's behavior, the cocoon or pupa stage, and the butterfly or moth. Useful prepositions might include the words around, inside, before, after, from. Underline the prepositional phrases in your summary. Save your work in your Working Portfolio.

- caterpillar stuck to the leaf
- film formed around caterpillar

- insect begins breaking from pupa or cocoon

- insect out of pupa or cocoon
- pumps fluids through its wings
A. Prepositions, Conjunctions, Interjections Choose the correct word in parentheses to complete each sentence. Then identify the word as a preposition, a conjunction, or an interjection.

1. New Orleans has many wooden buildings built (on, out) swampland.
2. (For, Off) termites these buildings are like a buffet.
3. The Algiers Public Library (near, up) New Orleans had 79 antitermite treatments.
4. Yet experts examined the ground afterward and found 70 million Formosan termites (beneath, above) the library.
5. (Ugh!, To!) It was the largest known termite colony on earth.
6. Each of the termites was small, (or, yet) together they were like a 500-pound animal eating the building 24 hours a day.
7. A typical Formosan colony is made up of 5 million termites (and, but) eats 1,000 pounds of wood a year.
8. The termites probably traveled (to, until) the United States in wooden crates after World War II.
9. People thought they were relatively harmless, (not, but) by 1965 they had infested a Houston warehouse.
10. (Except, Both) Galveston, Texas, (for, and) Charleston, South Carolina, are also victims of Formosan termites.

B. Prepositional Phrases Write the prepositional phrases in the paragraph below. Identify each as an adjective or an adverb phrase.

(1) Butterflies are the darlings of the insect world. (2) Like bugs in elaborate costumes, they grace our gardens. (3) Yet butterflies work hard despite their delicate appearance. (4) Some migrate for 2,000 miles. (5) They can soar 7,000 feet above the earth.
(6) There are more than 20,000 species of butterflies. (7) But environmental changes in the modern world have reduced their numbers.
(8) Industrial and residential development destroys the food and shelter needed by butterflies.
(9) Pesticides are deadly to them.
(10) However, "habitat gardening" helps provide butterflies with shelter and food plants.
Mastery Test: What Did You Learn?

Choose the letter of the term that correctly identifies each underlined item.

Jumping spiders are the cats of the spider world. Their quick gait and short, sudden jumps help them catch their prey. When they get close to an insect, they pounce. A jumping spider can leap 40 times its body length. In human terms, it is like a person 6 feet tall who can jump 240 feet. Wow! The spider is also famous for its excellent vision. With four of its eight eyes very large, it has the best vision of any spider its size. Jumping spiders do not build webs. They spin a dragline attached to a wall or a tree. Jumping spiders live in almost every environment—you can find them both on your own windowsill and 22,000 feet up the slopes of Mount Everest.

1. A. adjective phrase  
   B. adverb phrase  
   C. coordinating conjunction  
   D. correlative conjunction

2. A. preposition  
   B. object of a preposition  
   C. coordinating conjunction  
   D. correlative conjunction

3. A. interjection  
   B. preposition  
   C. correlative conjunction  
   D. object of a preposition

4. A. object of a preposition  
   B. coordinating conjunction  
   C. correlative conjunction  
   D. interjection

5. A. conjunction  
   B. interjection  
   C. adverb phrase  
   D. adjective phrase

6. A. preposition  
   B. conjunction  
   C. adverb  
   D. interjection

7. A. object of a preposition  
   B. preposition  
   C. correlative conjunction  
   D. coordinating conjunction

8. A. interjection  
   B. conjunction  
   C. prepositional phrase  
   D. object of a preposition

9. A. preposition  
   B. adverb  
   C. conjunction  
   D. interjection

10. A. coordinating conjunction  
    B. correlative conjunction  
    C. preposition  
    D. object of a preposition
Prepositions, Conjunctions, Interjections at a Glance

**Interjections** show emotion.

**Prepositions** show relationships.

**Conjunctions** connect.

**Preposition**

Shows a relationship. Has an object.

flypaper on the ceiling

**Conjunction**

Joins words or groups of words.

- mosquitoes or gnats
- Mosquitoes bite, and so do gnats.
- Coordinating conjunction: fleas and ticks
- Correlative conjunction: both fleas and ticks

**Interjection**

Expresses emotion.

Ouch! A mosquito bit me!
Prepositional Phrases

Adjective Phrase

Modifies a noun or a pronoun
Tells which one
That little spider on the wall
Tells what kind
is a type of jumping spider.

Adverb Phrase

Modifies a verb, an adjective, or an adverb
Tells when
During our recent picnic,
Tells where
ants came from everywhere
Tells why
for the free food
Tells how
in a big rush.

Interjections!

Splat! Just a Few Ideas...

To express concern
oh-oh, oh no, oops
To express disgust
yuck, ick, gross
To express joy
awesome, hooray, yea
To express surprise
wow, what, whoops
To draw attention to
hey, yo, look, wait

The Bottom Line

Checklist for Prepositions, Conjunctions, Interjections

Have I...

_____ used prepositions to show relationships between things?
_____ placed prepositional phrases close to the words they modify?

_____ used coordinating conjunctions to connect words and groups of words?
_____ used correlative conjunctions correctly?
_____ used interjections to express strong emotion?
Look at the photograph and newspaper headline above. We can see that the boy is in the gorilla’s living area, but how did he get there? How do you know? Fallen clearly conveys that he accidentally tumbled in. Although we often use fallen as part of a verb, it works here as an adjective, describing the boy. Verb forms that serve as other parts of speech are called verbals. Using them can add excitement and grace to your writing.

Write Away: Caring and Helping
Think about a time when you received help or comfort from an animal. The animal may have been real, a toy, or a character in a book. Write a paragraph that describes the event. Save the paragraph in your Working Portfolio.