

Ancient Languages First Aid

PREPOSITIONS



SECTION 6. PREPOSITIONS

Prepositions indicate relationships between nouns, pronouns and other words. Prepositions are said to *govern* nouns or pronouns in the object case.

Examples:

in the funerary complex of Niuserre
near the mountains of Olympus

In the above examples, 'in' and 'near' are prepositions: 'in' is related to 'funerary complex of Niuserre,' while 'near' is related to 'mountains of Olympus.'

The following are some common prepositions, although there are many more!

beyond	towards	for	about
onto	under	against	by
through	outside	off	near
inside	down	below	behind
at	along	beside	above
across	with	in	into
after	up	from	of
among	to	during	like
around	past	between	near
before	over	beneath	on

SECTION 6.1. PREPOSITIONS AND ADVERBS

It can be tricky to differentiate between prepositions and adverbs – be careful not to confuse them! Although they may look exactly the same, you will be able to tell them apart because of the way they are used.

Examples:

- Noah looked *down*.
- Noah sailed *down* the river.

In the first example, "down" is an adverb of place: it tells you *where* Noah looked.

In the second example, "down" is a preposition governing the noun "river" in the objective case.

A handy hint to differentiate between prepositions and adverbs: prepositions usually have a noun or pronoun after them.