

Prepositions and Prepositional Phrases

Prepositions

Prepositions usually express the relationships between things in time or place (i.e., when? where?).

Cenaremos antes de la función.

We'll have dinner before the show.

Te espero delante del restaurante.

I will wait for you in front of the restaurant.

Prepositions must be followed by a noun, a pronoun, an adverb, or a verb in the infinitive form.

The most common prepositions are:

a at, to

ante before [in the presence of]

bajo under [often not actual location]

con with

contra against

de of, from

desde from, since

durante during

en in, into, on, at [location]

entre between, among

excepto except

hacia towards [denotes direction]

hasta to, up to, as far as, until [with time]

para for*

por for*

según according to

sin without

sobre on, over, about

tras after

Antonio camina por aquí sin camisa.

Antonio walks around here without a shirt.

Esta camisa es de él.

This shirt is his.

Juan lo hace todo excepto cocinar.

Juan does everything except cooking.

*For a more detailed explanation of the uses of *para* and *por*, see pages 480–486 in this Lesson.

Use the following chart to check the meaning of those adverbs you did not recognize:

Adverbs	Adverbs used as prepositions
además <i>besides, in addition</i>	además de <i>besides, in addition to</i>
antes <i>before [time, order]</i>	antes de <i>before [time, order]</i>
cerca <i>near(by), close</i>	cerca de <i>near, close to</i>
debajo <i>under, beneath</i>	debajo de <i>under, beneath</i>
delante <i>before, in front [place]</i>	delante de <i>before, in front of</i>
dentro <i>inside, within</i>	dentro de <i>inside, within</i>
después <i>after [time, order]</i>	después de <i>after [time, order]</i>
detrás <i>after, behind [place]</i>	detrás de <i>after, behind [place]</i>
encima <i>on, on top, over</i>	encima de <i>on, on top of, over</i>
enfrente <i>opposite, in front</i>	enfrente de <i>opposite, in front of</i>
fuera <i>outside, out, beyond</i>	fuera de <i>outside of, beyond</i>
lejos <i>far, distant</i>	lejos de <i>far from, distant from</i>

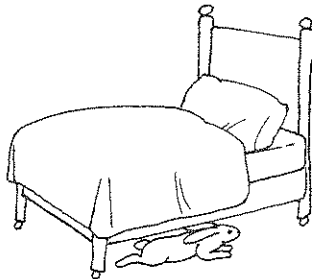
Look again closely at the lists above. Notice that when adverbs are used as prepositions, they require the use of *de* to connect them with the object that follows them.

Compare the following examples:

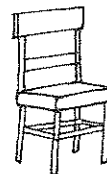
Sentences using adverbs	Sentences using adverbs as prepositions
Mi casa está cerca. <i>My house is nearby.</i>	Mi casa está cerca de la escuela. <i>My house is near school.</i>
Vamos a comer después. <i>We are going to eat later.</i>	Vamos a comer después de la conferencia. <i>We are going to eat after the lecture.</i>

Ejercicio

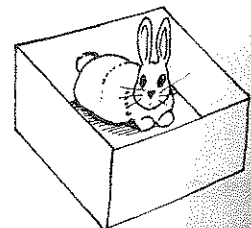
El conejo de Rosa siempre anda por toda la casa. Usa los dibujos a continuación para expresar donde está.



1.



2.



3.