ABSTRACT PREPOSITIONS
Practice

Underline each Preposition + Its Object

1) The girl with the yellow backpack ran to the bus.

2) We listened to a story about a talking fish.

3) That book of poetry is my favorite.

4) The cookies were baked by my grandma.

5) He apologized for his mistake.

Match each sentence to the type of prepositional phrase it contains.

The girl painted the picture **with a thin brush.**

The match was canceled **because of lightning**.

The castle was built **by the villagers**.

He had a long conversation **about science experiments**.

She handed the invitation **to her neighbor**.

The cover **of the book** was torn.

Possession

Manner

Cause / Reason

Association

Agent

Direction / Recipient

👩‍🎨 **Bonus: Make Your Own Sentence**
Choose an abstract preposition from this list: *of, by, with, to, about, for*
Write your own sentence using it in a non-spatial way.

Dress Up Your Writing

ABSTRACT PREPOSITIONS
Mini Lesson

Prepositions don't just tell us where something is. They also show relationships—between people, ideas, and actions. Understanding what a preposition does (its function) helps us spot it more easily in a sentence and see how it connects or partners ideas. (Remember: prepositions love partners!)

Here are six common functions of abstract prepositions:

🤲 Possession
Shows **who or what something belongs to** or is associated with.
📚 *The book **of fairy tales** was on the shelf.*
✉️ *A letter **from my aunt** arrived today.*
Common prepositions: *of, from*

🖌️ Manner
Describes **how** something is done.
🚶‍♀️ *She walked **with confidence**.*
🎶 *He sang **in a whisper**.*
🧵 *The costume was made **by hand**.*
Common prepositions: *with, in, by*

🧠 Cause / Reason
Tells us **why** something happened or what caused it.
🧯 *The match was canceled **because of rain**.*
🙏 *She was forgiven **for her mistake**.*
Common prepositions: *because of, for*

🧍 Agent (Doer of the Action)
Used in **passive voice** to show **who** did the action.
🍪 *The cookies were baked **by the chef**.*
🧵 *The cape was sewn **by my grandma**.*
Common preposition: *by*

🤝 Association
Shows **a connection** between people, ideas, or things.
👫 *He works **with a team of scientists**.*
🧠 *We learned **about ancient Egypt**.*
🎯 *This worksheet is **for older students**.*
Common prepositions: *with, for, about*

🧭 Direction / Recipient
Tells us **who is receiving** something or **where it is going**.
💌 *She wrote a letter **to her friend**.*
🏀 *He passed the ball **to the goalie**.*
Common preposition: *to*

Dress Up Your Writing

ANSWER KEY

Underline each Preposition + Its Object

1) The girl with the yellow backpack ran to the bus.

2) We listened to a story about a talking fish.

3) That book of poetry is my favorite.

4) The cookies were baked by my grandma.

5) He apologized for his mistake.

Match each sentence to the type of prepositional phrase it contains

The girl painted the picture **with a thin brush.**

The match was canceled **because of lightning**.

The castle was built **by the villagers**.

He had a long conversation **about science experiments**.

She handed the invitation **to her neighbor**.

The cover **of the book** was torn.

Possession

Manner

Cause / Reason

Association

Agent

Direction / Recipient

Dress Up Your Writing