Distinguishing Between Prepositions and Adverbs

A *preposition* must have an object and be part of a prepositional phrase.

An *adverb* modifies a verb and has no object.

Preposition: The ball flew *past* third base. (prep phrase, obj of prep – base)

Adverb: The umpire ran *past* quickly. (modifies ran – where did he run? past)

Preposition: They sat *inside* the dugout. (prep phrase, obj of prep – dugout)

Adverb: Please come *inside* soon. (modifies come – where should you come? inside)

Exercise 4 Distinguishing Between Prepositions and Adverbs

In each pair of sentences, state whether the underlined word is a preposition of an adverb.

Example: Umpires stand along the baselines. preposition

 We waited for the hot dog vendor to come along. adverb

1. In modern baseball, an umpire stands behind home plate.

 A single strikeout can cause one team to win a game or to fall behind.

2. At a night game, the light are turned on.

 The pitcher stands on the mound.

3. The players warm up before the game.

 They’ve practiced the skills many times before.

4. Through popular legend, Abner Doubleday invented the baseball.

 However, those doubting the claim find it quite easy to see through.

5. Most scholars believe that a variety of similar games over time eventually gave rise to

 baseball.

 They believe these games carried over from other cultures.

6. By April, the season has begun.

 By November, it has gone by.

7. Eager fans are in line for tickets.

 All want to get in on time.

8. The pitcher threw the ball across the plate.

 The catcher ran across to the pitcher.

9. The ball was pitched low and outside.

 Nevertheless, the batter hit it outside the park.

10. Fans don’t like to sit around waiting for hits.

 They like to see players running around the bases.

Distinguishing Between Prepositions and Adverbs p. 375 Ex. 4 (b)

A *preposition* must have an object (noun) and be part of a prepositional phrase.

An *adverb* modifies a verb and has no object.

Preposition: The ball flew *past* third base. (prep phrase, obj of prep – base)

Adverb: The umpire ran *past* quickly. (modifies ran – where did he run? past)

Preposition: They sat *inside* the dugout. (prep phrase, obj of prep – dugout)

Adverb: Please come *inside* soon. (modifies come – where should you come? inside)

Exercise 4 Distinguishing Between Prepositions and Adverbs

In each pair of sentences, state whether the circled word in each underlined phrase is a preposition or an adverb.

Example: Umpires stand along the baselines. preposition

 We waited for the hot dog vendor to come along. adverb

1. In modern baseball, an umpire stands behind home plate.

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