

Using Prepositions:

Please remember that a Preposition can be followed by one of several things:

- 1.) A noun: I am addicted *to* chocolate. → just a noun
- 2.) A noun phrase: I am addicted *to* chocolate chip cookies.
- 3.) A gerund: I am addicted *to* smoking.
- 4.) A gerund phrase: I am addicted *to* smoking cigarettes.
- 5.) Sometimes, a preposition can be followed by a noun clause: I am thinking *about* why you are here.

Now, you try some:

I believe in (noun)

Lilian believes in (noun phrase)

David objects to (gerund)

Miguel is committed to (gerund phrase)

We talked about (gerund)

Stew is in charge of (gerund phrase)

Punctuating with Prepositional Phrases:

*If you start a sentence with a short prepositional phrase, a comma is optional.

In July, my nephews are coming to visit me. → correct

In July my nephews are coming to visit me. → correct

*If you start a sentence with a prepositional phrase that is longer than your independent clause, you should use a comma:

At midnight in the garden of good and evil, I felt alive. → correct

At midnight in the garden of good and evil I felt alive. → incorrect

*If a prepositional phrase is towards the end of the sentence, a comma is optional.

My nephews are coming to visit me in July. → correct

My nephews are coming to visit me, in July. → correct

I felt alive at midnight in the garden of good and evil. → correct

I felt alive, at midnight in the garden of good and evil. → correct