

Chapter 7

Anno Domini

Prepositions; Prefixes; Accusative of Place to Which Ablative of Place from Which

I. Grammar

A preposition is a word that shows how a noun or a pronoun is related to another word in the sentence.

A. Prepositions and Adverbs

This chart should be put under Prepositions in the section titled "Grammar."

The word "preposition" comes from the Latin word **praepositus** which means *placed in front*. Originally the case endings alone were enough to show the meaning of nouns in a sentence. But the accusative and ablative cases came to be used in so many ways that certain adverbs began to be used to make the relationship of the words clearer. These adverbs came to be called prepositions because they were placed in front of the nouns and formed prepositional phrases.

The bird sat *on* the house.
The bird was *above* the house.
The bird flew *under* the house.
The bird stepped *off* the perch.
The bird stood *between* the trees.

The prepositions *on*, *above*, *under*, *off*, and *between* show how *the bird* is related to the nouns *house*, *perch*, *trees*. Each preposition has an object that makes up a **prepositional phrase**: *on the house*, *above the house*, etc. A preposition which has no object in English is an adverb. Thus, in the sentence, "The sky is above," *above* has no object, so in that instance it is an adverb.

