Things In Grammer We Really Don't Need
Prepositive & Postpositive

"Prepositive" and "Postpositive" are terms given to <u>**Adjectives**</u> based on whether they modify a <u>**Noun**</u> from before it or after it. We don't really need these terms because in my grammar, we already use the term "<u>**Attributive**</u>" to mean any <u>**Element**</u> that modifies something from before it to make a <u>**Phrase**</u>, and "<u>**Trailing Modifier**</u>" to mean the same but from a position after the thing it modifies.

Ex. <u>a dark</u> **night**   <-- Two <u>**Attributives**</u> help to make a <u>**Phrase**</u>.
Ex. **a night** <u>which is dark</u>   <-- <u>**Trailing Modifier**</u> makes a <u>**Phrase**</u>.
Ex. <u>a funny</u> **thing**   <-- <u>**Trailing Modifier**</u> makes a <u>**Phrase**</u>.
Ex. **something** <u>funny</u>   <-- <u>**Trailing Modifier**</u> makes a <u>**Phrase**</u>.

A <u>**Trailing Modifier**</u> is different from a <u>**Main Modifier**</u>. A <u>**Main Modifier**</u> also follows the thing it modifies, but it creates a <u>**Clause**</u>, not a <u>**Phrase**</u>.

Ex. **something** <u>funny</u>   <-- <u>**Trailing Modifier**</u> makes a <u>**Phrase**</u>.
Ex. **Something** <u>is funny</u>.   <-- <u>**Main Modifier**</u> makes a <u>**Clause**</u>.

In modern English, you only have to remember three things about <u>**Adjectives**</u> being used as <u>**Trailing Modifiers**</u>. First, there are some <u>**Pronouns**</u> that, because of their etymology, only take <u>**Trailing Modifiers**</u>.

Ex. something funny   <-- The "some" in "something" used to be a <u>**Determiner**</u>...
Ex. some funny thing   <-- ...which always goes *before* the <u>**Adjective**</u>.
Ex. ~~funny something~~   <-- That's why this doesn't work.

The second thing to remember is that there are a few <u>**Set Phrases**</u> that carry the old form into the modern language.

Ex. attornies general   <-- This is a specific job title.
Ex. ~~general attornies~~   <-- You can say this, but it doesn't mean anything specific.

The third thing to remember is that you actually *can* use *any* <u>**Adjective**</u> as a <u>**Trailing Modifier**</u> instead of an <u>**Attributive**</u>, but it is not common now, and will make your speech sound more old-fashioned and poetic. If this is your goal, then feel free.

Ex. past centuries   <-- The modern way.
Ex. centuries past   <-- More old-fashioned and poetic sounding.

As you can see, we had no problem talking *about* "Prepositive" and "Postpositive" **Adjectives**, without needing to actually use those terms. Perhaps in some other language these terms are necessary, but not in English.