CLAIMS

1. A method for preparing polyphenylene ether, comprising a polymerization process, wherein an oxygen-containing gas is passed through a polymerization solution prepared by adding a phenolic compound, an aromatic solvent and a catalyst into a previously prepared polyphenylene ether having a reduced viscosity of 0.3 to 1.0 dL/g, to thereby subject the phenolic compound to oxidative polymerization.

2. The method for preparing polyphenylene ether according to claim 1, further comprising a pre-polymerization process, wherein an oxygen-containing gas is passed through a pre-polymerization solution comprising a phenolic compound, an aromatic solvent and a catalyst, to thereby subject the phenolic compound to oxidative polymerization, wherein

the previously prepared polyphenylene ether is a polyphenylene ether contained in at least a part of an organic phase obtained via liquid separation of the pre-polymerization solution after the pre-oxidative polymerization by using an organic phase and an aqueous phase.

3. The method for preparing polyphenylene ether according to claim 1 or 2, wherein a ratio of an amount of the previously prepared polyphenylene ether to an amount of the phenolic compound added into the polymerization solution is 10 mass% or more and 30 mass% or less.