

Unlike a one-word adjective, which usually precedes the word it modifies, an adjective phrase almost always follows the noun or pronoun it modifies.

ADJECTIVE Amy closed the **cellar** door.

ADJECTIVE PHRASE Amy closed the door **to the cellar**.

More than one adjective phrase may modify the same word.

**EXAMPLE** Here's a letter **for you from Aunt Martha**. [The prepositional phrases *for you* and *from Aunt Martha* both modify the noun *letter*.]

An adjective phrase may also modify the object of another prepositional phrase.

**EXAMPLE** The horse **in the trailer with the rusted latch** broke loose. [The phrase *in the trailer* modifies the noun *horse*. *Trailer* is the object of the preposition *in*. The phrase *with a rusted latch* modifies *trailer*.]

Often you can convert the objects of adjective phrases into adjectives. Doing so makes your writing less wordy.

Adjective Phrases	Nouns Used as Adjectives
The light <b>in the kitchen</b> is on.	The <b>kitchen</b> light is on.
The airports <b>in Chicago and New York</b> are crowded.	The <b>Chicago and New York</b> airports are crowded.

However, not all adjective phrases can be changed into one-word modifiers that make sense. Sometimes, changing an adjective phrase makes a sentence awkward and ungrammatical.

CLEAR Please hand me the book on the table.

AWKWARD Please hand me the table book.

## Exercise 2 Identifying Adjective Phrases

Identify the adjective phrases in the following paragraph, and give the word that each modifies.

**EXAMPLE** [1] A few years ago our family visited South Dakota and saw a famous monument to great American leaders.

1. *to great American leaders—monument*

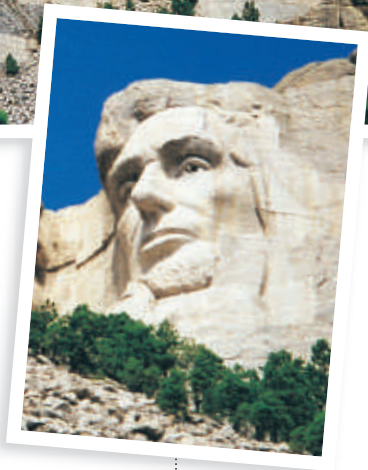
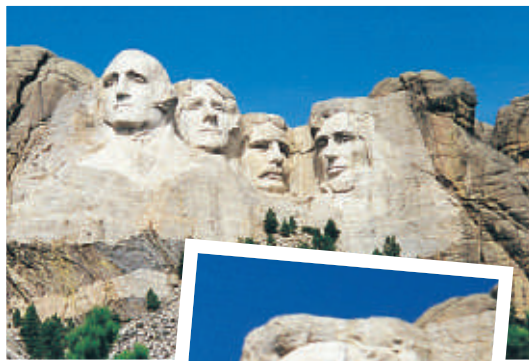
[1] My mom took the pictures on the next page when we were visiting this scenic spot at Mount Rushmore National Memorial. [2] As

### HELP



Some sentences in Exercise 2 contain more than one adjective phrase.

you can see, the mountainside behind us is a lasting tribute to George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt, and Abraham Lincoln. [3] The figures on the granite cliff were carved under the direction of Gutzon Borglum, an American sculptor. [4] Looking at the sculpture, I can certainly believe that this is one of the world's largest. [5] The faces are sixty feet high and show a great deal of detail and expression. [6] Each president symbolizes a part of United States history. [7] Washington represents the founding of the country, and Jefferson signifies the Declaration of Independence. [8] Lincoln symbolizes an end to slavery, and Roosevelt stands for expansion and resource conservation. [9] Tourists on the viewing terrace must gaze up nearly five hundred feet to see this art. [10] As both symbols for the nation and works of art, these massive faces are an inspiration to all who visit Mount Rushmore.



## The Adverb Phrase

**3e. A prepositional phrase that modifies a verb, an adjective, or an adverb is called an *adverb phrase*.**

An adverb phrase tells *how, when, where, why, or to what extent*.

- EXAMPLES** Britney answered **with a smile**. [The adverb phrase *with a smile* tells *how* Britney answered.]
- They sailed **across the lake** yesterday. [The adverb phrase *across the lake* tells *where* they sailed.]
- By Wednesday** Christopher will be finished. [The adverb phrase *By Wednesday* tells *when* Christopher will be finished.]
- The calculations erred **by more than two inches**. [By *more than two inches* is an adverb phrase telling *to what extent* the calculations erred.]

In the examples above, the adverb phrases all modify verbs.

### SKILLS FOCUS

Identify and use adverb phrases correctly.