

Prepositional Phrases – Additional Practice

Steps to Identifying & Classifying Prepositional Phrases:

1. Find the preposition.
2. Find the object of the preposition (always a noun or pronoun; always AFTER the preposition).
3. Underline from the preposition to its object, including all words between.
4. Figure out what the prepositional phrase is modifying or describing.
5. Figure out the part of speech of the word being modified.
6. Determine if the prepositional phrase is an adjective phrase or an adverb phrase.

Adjective Phrases vs. Adverb Phrases:

- Adjective Phrases
 - o Only describe or modify nouns or pronouns
 - o Will always appear AFTER the word they are modifying
 - o Answer questions like which one or what kind
- Adverb Phrases
 - o Describe or modify adjectives, verbs, or adverbs
 - o Can appear at any point in the sentence
 - o Answer the questions where, when, why, how, and to what extent

Common Mistakes:

1. Confusing prepositions with other parts of speech
2. Misidentifying the object of the preposition
 - a. The object of the preposition is always the first noun or pronoun that appears after it
3. Identifying phrases as prepositional when they are not
 - a. Remember, to be a prepositional phrase, the preposition must have an object.
 - b. Keep an eye on phrases that begin with “to,” since “to” can also start an infinitive verb phrase
4. Forgetting to check for multiple prepositional phrases

Practice:

Example – *The book on the table belongs to Sarah.*

| <i>Prepositional Phrase</i> | <i>Modifies</i> | <i>Type (ADJ or ADV)</i> |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| <i>On the table</i> | <i>Book</i> | <i>ADJ</i> |

Directions: For each of the sentences below, complete the chart. Remember to find the phrase first, then determine what it is modifying before classifying it as either an adjective phrase or an adverb phrase.

1. The dog barked at the stranger.
2. She walked through the park after school.
3. The flowers in the garden are blooming beautifully.
4. He put the keys to his car in his pocket.
5. After breakfast, we got ready to go to school.
6. The children played near the swings on the playground.
7. I gave up coffee 3 weeks ago in an effort to be healthier.
8. The car with the broken window needs repaired.
9. She sang during the concert with great enthusiasm.
10. During the night, he got up and went to the kitchen.

| | <i>Prepositional Phrase</i> | <i>Modifies</i> | <i>Type (ADJ or ADV)</i> |
|-----|-----------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| 1. | | | |
| 2. | | | |
| | | | |
| 3. | | | |
| 4. | | | |
| | | | |
| 5. | | | |
| | | | |
| 6. | | | |
| | | | |
| 7. | | | |
| 8. | | | |
| 9. | | | |
| | | | |
| 10. | | | |
| | | | |

KEY

1. The dog barked at the stranger.
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| | <i>Prepositional Phrase</i> | <i>Modifies</i> | <i>Type (ADJ or ADV)</i> |
|-----|-----------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| 1. | At the stranger | Barked | ADV |
| 2. | Through the park | Walked | ADV |
| | After school | Walked | ADV |
| 3. | In the garden | Flowers | ADJ |
| 4. | To his car | Keys | ADJ |
| | In his pocket | Put | ADV |
| 5. | After breakfast | Got | ADV |
| | To school | Go | ADV |
| 6. | Near the swings | Played | ADV |
| | On the playground | Swings | ADJ |
| 7. | In an effort | Gave up | ADV |
| 8. | With the broken window | Car | ADJ |
| 9. | During the concert | Sang | ADV |
| | With great enthusiasm | Sang | ADV |
| 10. | During the night | Got up and went | ADV |
| | To the kitchen | Went | ADV |