PREPOSITIONAL PHRASES

Preposition Poem

Under the blue sky,
Near the ancient wood
Beside the trickling stream,
On the grassy bank,
Under a bright umbrella,
In the month of May

...
What is a PHRASE?

• A phrase is a group of words that acts as a single part of speech (like an adjective) that does not contain both a subject and a verb.

It is a fragment of a sentence, so it cannot express an idea on its own.

• After midnight
• on the roof
• with a Ukrainian bullfighter
What's a PHRASE?

Egor's mother was dancing.

- *After midnight*, Egor's mother was dancing.

- *After midnight*, Egor's mother was *on the roof* dancing.

- *After midnight*, Egor's mother was *on the roof* dancing *with a Ukrainian bullfighter*. 
What's a PHRASE?

Felcity stared.

• *Surprised by the intensity of her disgust*, Felicity stared.

• *Surprised by the intensity of her disgust*, Felicity stared *at the cockroach*.

• *Surprised by the intensity of her disgust*, Felicity stared *at the cockroach scurrying across her omelet*. 
Prepositions

• Most prepositions are difficult to define: of, in, off, by, through, between, etc.
An alien on the stove.

A troll behind the stove.

A troll in front of the fridge.

A ghost behind the lamp.

Most of the time, prepositions indicate location.
Prepositional Phrases

- Prepositional Phrases function as adjectives or adverbs in a sentence.

- They are formed like this: preposition + optional modifiers + noun, pronoun, or gerund (running)

- Example: over the rainbow

(over = preposition) + (the = article) + (rainbow = noun)
Prepositional Phrases

- In the beginning
- Before the fall
- After the brutal fight
- At school
- Down the aisle
- Across the street
- Inside your ear
- Outside the house
- Between two girls
- By chewing
- Behind the scenes
- On the wooden table
- By the sea
- Under the couch
- Around the bend
- Down in the sand trap
- Into the dark woods
- Against the wind
- Near the mouse
- Through the tunnel
- To school
- Like Larry’s uncle
- Except my friend
- Over the rainbow
- Up the rough river
- Without a paddle
- With anger
- Toward the door
Notice – prepositional phrases usually end with a noun or pronoun, which is the **OBJECT** of the preposition

- *After* the brutal fight
- *Inside* your wax-filled *ear*
- *Outside* the blue *house*
- *Between* two *girls*
- *Beside* you
- *With* me
A prepositional phrase can open a sentence

\textbf{Without help,} Janie made this message for Santa.

1) Is this prepositional phrase working as an \textit{adjective} or \textit{adverb}?
2) What is the \textit{object} of the preposition?

Notice: the comma offsets the prepositional phrase.
A prepositional phrase can close a sentence

• We ate corn dogs and drank root beer floats after the baseball game.

1) Is this prepositional phrase working as an adjective or adverb?
2) What is the object of the preposition?
A prepositional phrase can split the main subject and verb

- All the puppies, except those that had been trained, pooped everywhere!

1) Is this prepositional phrase working as an adjective or adverb?
2) What is the object of the preposition?

Notice: commas offset the prepositional phrase
A sentence can have consecutive prepositional phrases

• We saw this holiday tree in the mall, on some guy’s head.

1) Are these prepositional phrase working as adjectives or adverbs?
2) What are the objects of the prepositions?
A sentence can have consecutive prepositional phrases

1. In grandma’s attic, under the window, in a cardboard box between two garbage cans, we found these scary Santa Clauses.

1) Are these prepositional phrase working as adjectives or adverbs?
2) What are the objects of the prepositions?
Prepositional phrases can be used within other phrases

- My aunt and uncle, the goofballs in this picture, love immature shenanigans.

“the goofballs in this picture” is what type of phrase?

1) Is this prepositional phrase working as an adjective or adverb?
2) What is the object of the preposition?

So… “in this picture” is a prepositional phrase within an appositive phrase!
Prepositions & Prepositional Phrases
PREPOSITIONS

- Watch the video linked below to find out what a preposition is and listen for some examples of words that are prepositions as well!

- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q0AKUvlBvsk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q0AKUvlBvsk)

The live link is here: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q0AKUvlBvsk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q0AKUvlBvsk)
Prepositions

Answer these questions after the video!

What is a preposition?
Prepositions

- Answer these questions after the video!
- What is a preposition?
  - A preposition is a word that relates a noun or a pronoun to some other word in a sentence.
- Examples:
  - The dictionary on the desk was open.
  - An almanac was under the dictionary.
  - Meet me at three o’clock tomorrow.
Prepositions

Watch out! There are TONS of commonly used prepositions. Make sure you write all of them down on our notes!!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commonly Use Prepositions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>aboard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>above</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>across</td>
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<td>after</td>
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<td>against</td>
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<td>along</td>
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<td>amid</td>
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<tr>
<td>among</td>
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<tr>
<td>around</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Prepositions

- A preposition can consist of more than one word.
- Example:
  - I borrowed the dictionary along with some other reference books.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prepositions of MORE than one word</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>according to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>across from</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Prepositions

Read the sentences below. Fill in the blank using a preposition.

Use the dictionary that is __________ the table.

I took the atlas ________ your room.

Notice several prepositions fit each sentence. The preposition you use changes where the item is that you are connecting in the sentence.
Prepositional Phrases

Introduction Activity:

Write a sentence or two that tells *where* and *when* you might read a book.
Prepositional Phrases

Now let’s talk about prepositional phrases!

A prepositional phrase is a group of words that begins with a preposition and ends with a noun or pronoun, which is called the object of the preposition.

Examples:
- Mr. Fromwiller has an almanac from the nineteenth century.
- The almanac has a special meaning for him.
Prepositional Phrases

Now go back to your introduction activity sentences and underline the prepositional phrase.

Draw an arrow from the preposition to the noun/pronoun that is the object of the preposition.

Example:
- We met in front of the library at noon.
- In front- tells where
- Of the library- tells where
- At noon- tells when
Prepositional phrases

**Prepositional Phrases:**
- can have a compound (*more than one*) object.

**Examples:**
- Almanacs contain lists **of facts and figures**.
- Grace shows one **to her sisters and her classmates**.

**Prepositional Phrases:**
- can have more than one prepositional phrase

**Example:**
- We left our notes **under the almanac on the shelf**.
Prepositional Phrases

Prepositional Phrases:
- Can appear anywhere in the sentence - at the beginning, in the middle, or at the end.

Examples:
- At the library students examined the almanac.
- Students at the library examined the almanac.
- Students examined the almanac at the library.
Pronouns after Prepositions

Read the sentence below. Tell what is wrong with it and then write it correctly in your notes.

Lisa’s dog ran to Lisa, jumped on Lisa, and stole a cookie with Lisa.

Remember back to our pronoun unit? We use pronouns to replace nouns to avoid using nouns over and over.

Now that you have corrected the sentence find the prepositions and circle them. Then, Underline the prepositional phrases, and draw an arrow from the preposition to the pronoun in the prepositional phrase.
Pronouns after Prepositions

When a pronoun is the object of a preposition, remember to use an object pronoun and not a subject pronoun.

Example:
- Michael handed the dictionary to Sarah.
- Replace Sarah with object pronoun - HER
- Michael handed the dictionary to her.
Pronouns after prepositions

Sometimes a preposition will have a compound object consisting of a noun and pronoun.
  • Remember to use an object pronoun in a compound object.

Example:
  • I borrowed the dictionary from Sam and Jacob.
  • Replace Jacob with object pronoun \( \textit{HIM} \)
  • I borrowed the dictionary from Sam and him.

How do you know to use HIM rather than HE?
  • Test it out- try saying the sentence aloud with only the pronoun following the preposition.
    • I borrowed the dictionary from him (NOT he).
Pronouns after prepositions

Confusing *WHO* and *WHOM*

The pronouns *who* and *whom* are often confused. *Who* is a **subject pronoun**, and *whom* is an **object pronoun**.

Note how the pronouns are used in the following sentences:

**Who** told you about it?
- (Who is the **subject**)

**To whom** did you lend the almanac?
- (whom is the **object**)
  - YOU $\rightarrow$ is the subject of the sentence
Prepositional Phrases as adjectives and adverbs

PREPOSITIONAL PHRASES AS ADJECTIVES AND ADVERBS

- Prepositional phrases function as adjectives and adverbs in sentences.

- A prepositional phrase functioning as an **adjective** describes a noun or pronoun.
  - These phrases usually come directly after the noun or pronoun it describes.

- **Example:**
  - (underline the prepositional phrase, and then draw an arrow to the noun/pronoun it is describing)

- **Africa is continent with many natural resources.**

- **One of the articles** describes Africa vividly.

- **The wildlife of Africa** is varied and abundant.
Prepositional Phrases as adjectives and adverbs

**PREPOSITIONAL PHRASES AS ADJECTIVES AND ADVERBS**

- A prepositional phrase functioning as an **adverb** describes a **verb, an adjective, or another adverb.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Function</th>
<th>Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Describes a VERB</td>
<td>Wildlife abounds <strong>in</strong> Africa.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dry savannas extend <strong>over</strong> many acres.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Describes an ADJECTIVE</td>
<td>Birds are exotic <strong>in</strong> color.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Describes an ADVERB</td>
<td>The Nile River flow west <strong>of</strong> Cairo.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Misplaced Modifiers

Should I put my *modifier* at the *beginning* of the sentence?

Or would it be better in the *middle*? Or at the *end*?
This presentation covers placing **modifiers** correctly.
A misplaced and/or inappropriately used modifier item on an objective test might look like this . . .
A. Broken and dusty, Clarence found an old computer in the garage.
B. Broken and dusty, the garage had an old computer that was found by Clarence.
C. In the garage, Clarence found an old computer that was broken and dusty.

C is correct; the computer — not Clarence, not the garage — is broken and dusty.
Place a *present participle phrase* right before or right after the word it describes.

**Present participle:** verb + ing

The children ate *banana splits* dripping with hot fudge and whipped cream.

*Good!* Now the *banana splits* are dripping with hot fudge!
Place a past participle phrase right before or right after the word it describes.

**Past participle:** regular = **verb** + **ed**; irregular forms vary.

Angered by the football score, **Paul** kicked the television in the living room.

**Right!** This sounds as if **Paul** is angered by the **football score**!
Place an adjective clause right after the word it describes.

An adjective clause begins with a word such as that, which, or who.

The landscaper wrestled the old lawnmower that coughed and choked through the long grass.

That makes sense! An old lawn mower can cough and choke!
To place modifiers correctly, avoid passive voice verbs.

**Passive voice:** form of *be* + past participle + *by.*

Typing furiously, *Beatrice* finished the essay by the 3 p.m. deadline.

*This is* logical! Beatrice can type an *essay*!
Quick Test

**Directions:** In the items that follow, choose the sentence in which the modifiers are correctly placed.

Let’s see what you can do.
Item 1

A. Sitting on the top shelf of the refrigerator, Desmond saw Mom’s pristine birthday cake.

B. Desmond, sitting on the top shelf of the refrigerator, saw Mom’s pristine birthday cake.

C. Sitting on the top shelf of the refrigerator, Mom’s pristine birthday cake caught Desmond's attention.
A. Sitting on the top shelf of the refrigerator, Desmond saw Mom’s pristine birthday cake.

B. Desmond, sitting on the top shelf of the refrigerator, saw Mom’s pristine birthday cake

C. Sitting on the top shelf of the refrigerator, Mom’s pristine birthday cake caught Desmond’s attention.
Item 2

A. Loudly slurping the bowl of hot soup, Derrick’s impolite behavior annoyed the other diner patrons.

B. As Derrick loudly slurped the bowl of hot soup, his impolite behavior annoyed the other diner patrons.

C. Loudly slurping the hot soup, the other diner patrons were annoyed by Derrick’s impolite behavior.
A. Loudly slurping the bowl of hot soup, Derrick’s impolite behavior annoyed the other diner patrons.

B. As Derrick loudly slurped the bowl of hot soup, his impolite behavior annoyed the other diner patrons.

C. Loudly slurping the hot soup, the other diner patrons were annoyed by Derrick’s impolite behavior.
Item 3

A. Seated by the window, Barbara munches popcorn on the long bus ride home.

B. Seated by the window, popcorn was munches by Barbara on the long bus ride home.

C. Barbara munches popcorn seated by the window on the long bus ride home.
Item 3

A. Seated by the window, Barbara munched popcorn on the long bus ride home.

B. Seated by the window, popcorn was munched by Barbara on the long bus ride home.

C. Barbara munched popcorn seated by the window on the long bus ride home.
Item 4

A. Rosalind struggled up the three flights of stairs in her new jeans, which were too tight for comfort.

B. Too tight for comfort, Rosalind struggled up the three flights of stairs in her new jeans.

C. In her new jeans, Rosalind struggled up three flights of stairs, which were too tight for comfort.
Item 4

A. Rosalind struggled up the three flights of stairs in her new jeans, which were too tight for comfort.

B. Too tight for comfort, Rosalind struggled up the three flights of stairs in her new jeans.

C. In her new jeans, Rosalind struggled up three flights of stairs, which were too tight for comfort.
A. Twisting in the strong wind, we knew the hurricane was close as we watched the trees.
B. We knew the hurricane was close as we watched the trees twisting in the strong wind.
C. We knew the hurricane was close, twisting in the wind, as we watched the trees.
Item 5

A. Twisting in the strong wind, we knew the hurricane was close as we watched the trees.

B. We knew the hurricane was close as we watched the trees twisting in the strong wind.

C. We knew the hurricane was close, twisting in the wind, as we watched the trees.
Item 6

A. Applying red toenail paint, Will asked Rhonda if she could interrupt her beauty regimen to go to the mall.

B. Will asked Rhonda, who was applying red toenail paint, if she could interrupt her beauty regimen to go to the mall.

C. Will asked if Rhonda could interrupt her beauty regimen to go to the mall, which was applying red toenail paint.
A. Applying red toenail paint, Will asked Rhonda if she could interrupt her beauty regimen to go to the mall.

B. Will asked Rhonda, who was applying red toenail paint, if she could interrupt her beauty regimen to go to the mall.

C. Will asked if Rhonda could interrupt her beauty regimen to go to the mall, which was applying red toenail paint.
Item 7

A. Struggling with the algebra problem, the pencil tapped nervously on Kenneth’s desk.

B. Struggling with the algebra problem, Kenneth’s desk was tapped nervously with the pencil.

C. Struggling with the algebra problem, Kenneth nervously tapped his pencil on the desk.
Item 7

A. Struggling with the algebra problem, the pencil tapped nervously on Kenneth’s desk.

B. Struggling with the algebra problem, Kenneth’s desk was tapped nervously with the pencil.

C. Struggling with the algebra problem, Kenneth nervously tapped his pencil on the desk.
A. Marking his score sheet with care, the hope this week was that Byron would pass his vocabulary quiz.

B. Marking his score sheet with care, Byron hoped that this week he would pass his vocabulary quiz.

C. Hoping that this week he would pass his vocabulary quiz, the score sheet was marked carefully by Byron.
Item 8

A. Marking his score sheet with care, the hope this week was that Byron would pass his vocabulary quiz.

B. **Marking his score sheet with care, Byron hoped that this week he would pass his vocabulary quiz.**

C. Hoping that this week he would pass his vocabulary quiz, the score sheet was marked carefully by Byron.
A. Splashing in the puddles left by the thunderstorm, Jayanti cooled her hot feet.

B. Splashing in the puddles left by the thunderstorm, the cool water refreshed Jayanti’s hot feet.

C. Splashing in the puddles, the thunderstorm cooled Jayanti’s hot feet.
A. Splashing in the puddles left by the thunderstorm, Jayanti cooled her hot feet.

B. Splashing in the puddles left by the thunderstorm, the cool water refreshed Jayanti’s hot feet.

C. Splashing in the puddles, the thunderstorm cooled Jayanti’s hot feet.
Item 10

A. Huddled by the door, the rain made the wet kitten cry to come in.

B. Crying to come in, the door is where the wet kitten huddled during the rain.

C. Huddled by the door, the wet kitten cried to come in from the rain.
Item 10

A. Huddled by the door, the rain made the wet kitten cry to come in.

B. Crying to come in, the door is where the wet kitten huddled during the rain.

C. Huddled by the door, the wet kitten cried to come in from the rain.
The End.
• An **appositive** is a word placed after another word to explain or identify it. The appositive *always* appears after the word it explains or identifies. It is *always* a noun or a pronoun, and the word it explains is *also* a noun or pronoun.

• Examples

  My uncle, *a lawyer*, is visiting us.
  My teacher, *Miss Marshall*, is very strict.
Appositive Phrases

- An *appositive phrase* consists of the appositive and its modifiers which may themselves be phrases.

- examples

  My radio, *an old portable*, is in the repair shop.

  The boys climbed the mountain, *one of the highest in the West*. 
Appositives are always set off by commas. No matter where it is located in the sentence:

- **Beginning:** *The largest city in Texas*, Houston is home to the Astros.
- **Middle:** Chemistry, *Sue's favorite subject*, is easy for her.
- **End:** Have you ever read *The Red Pony*, a *novel* by John Steinbeck?
Appositive and Appositive Phrases

They modify and describe!
Appositives are so cool!

Here’s the 411 on appositives:

1. They are a noun or pronoun
2. They are placed beside another noun or pronoun to identify or describe it
3. They give us extra information about the noun or pronoun
Here’s an example of an appositive:

- The teacher, Mrs. Baucum, was the most interesting person I have ever met.
- See!
- Mrs. Baucum is a noun
- It’s modifying “teacher” (noun)
- It’s placed beside the noun or pronoun it’s modifying
- And it’s giving us extra information!
Here’s another example:

• I chose one person, her, to organize the shoe closet.

• Is “her” a noun or pronoun?
• What is it modifying?
• Is “person” a noun or pronoun?
• Is “her” just extra information?
• Then we have an appositive!
Here's a tough one with 3 appositives:

- Rachel Carson, a biologist and writer, published the book Silent Spring in 1962.
- Where are the appositives?
- Yes... biologist, writer, and Silent Spring!
- Good job!!!!
Practice: Where are the appositives?

1. Charles Dickens is known for his novel *Great Expectations*.
2. The scientist Marie Curie was born in 1867.
3. Her husband, Pierre Curie, was also a scientist.
4. The novelist Jack London wrote *Call of the Wild*.
5. Nathan Studied the explorer Vasco da Gama.
7. The character Tom appears in Chapter One.
8. His cousin Ellen has a magnificent stamp collection.
9. The famous baseball player Hank Aaron hit 755 home runs.
**If the appositive is set off by commas, that means we **don’t** really need it in the sentence to complete the meaning and can be taken out.

Example: My mom, **Regina**, volunteers at the city library.

**If the appositive does not have any commas around it, we NEED it in the sentence to complete the meaning.

Example: The book **Sounder** is John’s favorite novel.
Appositive Phrases

- This is an appositive + its modifiers
- They work just like appositives do (give extra information, modify nouns or pronouns, etc.)
- Example: Officer Webb, one of the security guards, caught the burglar.

(The adjective phrase of the security guards modifies the appositive ONE and the whole thing is the appositive phrase.)
Here’s another example:

- Leonardo da Vinci, an Italian painter known for his artworks, was also an architect, engineer, and scientist.

(The whole phrase is giving us information, can be taken out, and contains the appositive – painter)

~Here’s the same sentence without the appositive phrase:
Leonardo da Vinci was also an architect, engineer, and scientist.
Still makes sense!
Practice: Where are the appositive phrases?

1. Pedro, a tall and slender man, rescued the kitten from the tree.
2. Vasco da Gama, a Portuguese explorer, was the first European to reach India by sea.
3. Last week, Freddie witnessed an odd event, a pig and a cat taking a nap together.
4. The professor, a woman of keen insight, explained her interpretation of the story.
5. The band played “Panther Pride,” the school’s fight song, during the graduation ceremony.
6. Hank Aaron, the right fielder from Alabama, broke Babe Ruth’s record for home runs.
QUESTIONS???