

Lessons 181

Parts of the Sentence - Prepositional Phrases

A **preposition** is a word that begins a **prepositional phrase** and shows the relationship between its object and another word in the sentence. A **preposition** must always have an object. A **prepositional phrase** starts with a **preposition**, ends with an **object**, and may have **modifiers** between the preposition and the object of the preposition.

A **prepositional phrase** may be used as an **adjective** telling *which* or *what kind* and modifying a **noun** or **pronoun**. An **adjective prepositional phrase** will come right after the noun or pronoun that it modifies. If there are two **adjective prepositional phrases** together, one will follow the other.

A **prepositional phrase** may be used as an **adverb** telling *how*, *when*, *where*, *how much*, and *why* and modifying the **verb** and sometimes an **adjective**. **Adverb prepositional phrases** can come anywhere in the sentence and can be moved within the sentence without changing the meaning.

Only **adjective prepositional phrases** modify the **object** of the **preposition** in another prepositional phrase. Notice that some prepositional phrases may be adverbs or adjectives because of their location in the sentence.

Instructions: Pick out the **prepositional phrases** in these sentences, identify what they tell us, and what they modify.

1. The boys searched the beach for sand dollars.
2. The grass behind the house and near the fence is dying.
3. A deep ditch was dug near the boundary of the factory.
4. A pretty girl with brown hair and eyes sat near me at the banquet.

5. The three contestants listened carefully to each question.