

## THE PREPOSITIONAL PHRASE

A phrase is a group of words without a subject and a verb, used as one part of speech. A verb phrase is two or more words used as a verb: might have written, should have come, could have been. A noun phrase is two or more words such a noun: the Heisman Trophy, Brookfield Zoo.

The prepositional phrase consists of the preposition, its object, and modifiers of the object. The object of a preposition is always a noun, a pronoun, or a group of words used as a noun. A prepositional phrase modifies another word in the sentence.

The adjective phrase always comes immediately after the noun or pronoun it modifies.

**EXAMPLE:** The bill *for the limber* is due. (*for the lumber* modifies *bill*.)

The adverbial phrase tells how, when, or where about a verb, adjective or adverb.

**EXAMPLE:** The boat sank *in the river*. (*in the river* tells *where* it sank.)

**Identifying Prepositional Phrases.** In each of the following sentences, underline the prepositional phrase. Circle the word(s) it modifies.

**EXAMPLE:** Cheryl remained in her room all day.

1. Penguins live at the South Pole.
2. The airplane headed for the Bermuda Triangle.
3. The audience dozed during the speech.
4. Some scientists believe there is a giant eel in Loch Ness.
5. Jack's favorite shoes were tossed out with the trash.
6. On a clear day, you can see twenty miles.
7. The fish in the skillet fried quickly.
8. The planet Pluto was not discovered until 1930.
9. The announcer on TV was excited.
10. The turtle laid eggs in the sand.
11. The boys climbed to the very top.
12. The black horse bolted and tossed its rider on the hard ground.
13. I finally found the car keys under the kitchen table.
14. We went to the dance late.
15. We are going to Grandmother's house this weekend.

16. The old man climbed wearily up the steep stairs.
17. The rabbit darted across the road.
18. At the beginning, we didn't believe we could do it.
19. Jim spread his model parts on the card table.
20. She saw the boys ride past here house.
21. Benjamin Franklin was born in 1706.
22. My jacket is the one with brass buttons.
23. Bill Carter took five subjects during his sophomore year.
24. The old man stood patiently at the door.
25. I stumbled over Tom's feet.
26. Behind the counter stood the worried clerk.
27. Miss Morgan is the coach of our debate team.
28. Our team has never played against yours.
29. The tall man across the room is tonight's speaker.
30. Mrs. Garner poured some iced tea into my glass.
31. The name of the book is *Alone*.
32. The ball was thrown over the roof.
33. Dan drove slowly past the corner.
34. Our house is located beyond the city limits.
35. Throughout the night the doctor stayed nearby.
36. Miss Mason fell off the ladder and sprained her ankle.
37. Under the table the dog waited.
38. We are proud because we stayed within our budget.
39. I'll tell you a story about pioneer days.
40. We visited the park between rain showers.