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Identifying Prepositional, Verbal, and Appositive Phrases

Directions: Before each sentence, identify the phrase in italics. Some sentences have more than one phrase. Use these abbreviations: *prep* (prepositional phrase), *part* (participial phrase), *ger* (gerund phrase), *inf* (infinitive phrase), and *app* (appositive phrase).

- prep/inf. A pack trip ^{adj.} *on horseback* is one ^{adj.} *way to explore the wilderness*.
- ger ^{S.} *Riding with a professional outfitter* can be safe and rewarding.
- ger The outfitter's staff is responsible for ^{O.P.} *setting up and taking down camp*.
- part The outfitter, ^{adj.} *known as the lead guide*, supervises the care of the pack animals as well as that of the individual mounts.
- part Previous experience *riding a trail on horseback* is not necessary.
- prep. Beginners should, however, pay ^{adv.} *close attention to the guide's instructions*.
- part. A full day's ride, ^{adj.} *averaging seven hours*, may cover fifteen miles.
- prep./inf. Stops ^{adj.} *for lunch* give everyone a chance to ^{adj.} *rest from the rigors of the trail*.
- ger. At nightfall, tents are set up for ^{O.P.} *sleeping in comfort*.
- prep. For the more hardy rider, trips ^{adj.} *into the high mountains* can be arranged.
- part. Here campers will find lakes ^{adj.} *teeming with fish*.
- part./inf. Meadows ^{adj.} *blooming with wildflowers* offer the photographer an opportunity to ^{adj.} *take unusual pictures*.
- inf./ger. Another exciting way to ^{adj.} *spend a day* is ^{P.N.} *rafting through a canyon*.
- ger. ^{S.} *Climbing rocks and mountains* is still another possibility.
- ger. An added benefit of such trips is ^{P.N.} *making friends with other campers*.
- ger. ^{S.} *Traveling the trail together* can lead to lifelong friendships.
- part. Most of the trail rides, ^{adj.} *sponsored by a number of associations*, are in national parks and national forests in the West.
- appos. One ride, ^{adj.} *a popular trip in the East*, runs from North Carolina into the Great Smoky Mountains.
- inf. ^{adv.} *To demonstrate the pleasure of wilderness recreation*, both The Wilderness Society and the American Forestry Association offer summer trail rides.
- appos. *An unusual form of outdoor recreation*, the trail ride is presently suffering from a shortage of qualified outfitters.

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Appositive Phrases

Directions: Place parentheses around the appositive phrase in each sentence. On the line before each sentence, identify each appositive as N (nonessential) or E (essential).

EXAMPLE: N John James, (the leader of the space mission). accepted the medal.

1. NE Rudyard Kipling, (probably the most widely read British author in the first decades of the twentieth century,) was born in 1865.
2. NE Kipling, (author of the *Jungle Book*,) wrote verse and fiction.
3. NE *Kim*, (his most famous novel,) also appealed to children.
4. NE Kipling, (a Britisher born in Bombay,) India, is usually associated with India.
5. NE His later books, (tales of exotic Indian villages,) tell also of jungles and military outposts.
6. E The novel (*Captains Courageous*) is set in New England.
7. NE Kipling's wife, (an American from Vermont,) took her husband to her native state, where they lived for five years.
8. NE In *Barrack-Room Ballads*, (a collection of his poems,) Kipling called Queen Victoria of England the "Widow of Windsor."
9. NE Despite her anger, he went on to win the Nobel Prize in literature, (a coveted award.)
10. E Master storyteller (Rudyard Kipling) continues to be enjoyed by readers all over the world.
11. E Poet (William Butler Yeats) of Ireland was also born in 1865.
12. NE Yeats, (founder of the Irish National Theater in Dublin,) spent much of his childhood in the Irish coastal town of Sligo.
13. NE Yeats, (a great playwright,) was one of the finest poets of the twentieth century.
14. NE Through his lyric poems ran the melancholy strain of the Irish, (a struggling people.)
15. NE In 1923, Yeats, (the advocate of the Irish,) won the Nobel Prize in literature.
16. NE "The Lake Isle of Innisfree," (a lyric poem studied by high-school students all over the world,) expresses Yeats's yearning to live in isolated peace.

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Fantastic Phrase Race

Directions: The following sentences contain a number of phrases. Underline each phrase in the sentence. Then, in order of appearance, identify the type of phrase it is on the lines provided. (The number of lines provided gives a hint as to how many phrases will be found in the sentence.) If the phrase is prepositional, gerund, or infinitive, also identify its function in the sentence.

EXAMPLE: In my graduate class, the focus stressed by the instructor is learning the various uses for computers.

prep. - adv.
part.
prep. - adv.
ger. - p.n.
prep. - adj.

1. Learning advanced writing style can be a difficult task for any writer.

ger. - Subject
part.
part.
prep. - adj.

2. To incorporate phrases in writing is to write well.

inf. - noun
prep. - adv.
ger. - o.p.
inf. - noun

3. By studying the various phrases, one can learn to incorporate sentence variety into his or her writing.

prep. - adv.
ger. - o.p.
inf. - n/d.o.
prep. - adv.
ger. - o.p.

4. Looking for ways to improve writing is always a focus of this class.

ger. -s.

prep. -adv.

inf. - adj.

ger. -n/d.o.

prep. -adj.

5. Sentence variation, sentences structured in various ways, can be achieved through sentence structure and length.

appos.

part.

prep. -adv.

prep. -adv.

6. Having practiced phrases for weeks, each student can improve his or her essay by remembering phrases and their functions.

part.

prep. -adv.

prep. -adv.

ger. -n/o.p.

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Extra Practice: Identifying Phrases in Sentences

Directions: The following sentences contain a number of phrases. Underline each phrase in the sentence. Then, in order of appearance, identify the type of phrase it is on the lines provided. (The number of lines provided gives a hint as to how many phrases will be found in the sentence.) If the phrase is prepositional, gerund, or infinitive, also identify its function in the sentence.

1. Trained as a zoologist at the University of Chicago, Rachel Carson worked for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, a reputable organization.

Part. - past
Prep. - adv.
Prep. - adv.
Prep. - adj.
Prep. - adv.
App.

2. Working full-time at her job, Carson managed to write two books about the natural world.

Part. - pres.
Prep. - adv.
Inf. - noun
Prep. - adj.

3. Nationally acclaimed, The Sea Around Us, a stunning masterpiece, came out in 1951.

Part. - past
Prep. - adj.
Appositive
Part. - pres.
Prep. - adv.

4. In this book, Carson succeeded in describing the biological richness of the sea.

Prep. - adv.
Prep. - adv.
Ger. - OP
Prep. - adj.

5. After completing one more book, she decided to turn her attention to the dangers of damaging
chemical pesticides.

Prep. - adv.

Ger. - O.P.

Inf. - noun

Prep. - adv.

Prep. - adj.

Part. - pres.