

Prepositional Phrases

Reteaching

A **prepositional phrase** consists of a preposition, its object, and any modifiers of the object.

Scientists observe stars through a telescope. (The preposition is *through*.)

An **adverb phrase** modifies a verb, an adjective, or another adverb.

We see many stars with the naked eye. (The phrase modifies *see*, telling how.)

An **adjective phrase** modifies a noun or a pronoun.

Light from the stars travels quickly. (The phrase modifies *light*, telling what kind.)

A. Identifying Prepositional Phrases

Underline the prepositional phrases in the following sentences.

EXAMPLE Astronomers have made many discoveries about the galaxy.

1. Can anyone count the stars in the Milky Way?
2. The Milky Way looks beautiful on a clear night.
3. I enjoy stargazing from a nearby hilltop.
4. Clusters of stars form constellations.
5. Seven very bright stars surrounded by dust form the Seven Sisters.
6. Stars emit huge amounts of light.
7. Starlight passing through the atmosphere produces twinkling.
8. Stars change size, shape, and color in their life spans.
9. Different stars are fascinating to astronomers.
10. For centuries, people have looked into the heavens.

B. Identifying Words Modified by Prepositional Phrases

Underline the prepositional phrase in each of the following sentences once. Underline the word it modifies twice.

EXAMPLE The quarterback threw the ball into the end zone.

1. Can you pronounce the name of the country?
2. The soprano sang one of my favorite songs.
3. In the cave an ancient artist had painted a hunting scene.
4. Along the path we planted pink and yellow tulips.
5. Can you see well in the dark?
6. The baseball flew over the fence.
7. Can you see that mountain in the distance?
8. The band played a song from a popular musical.
9. One of the hockey players was seriously injured.
10. During the storm all traffic stopped.

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More Practice

A. Identifying Prepositional Phrases

Underline the prepositional phrase in each sentence. Write the word it modifies on the line.

1. Many stars together create cloudy bands of light. _____
2. Traveling clouds of dust are called nebulas. _____
3. Stars are formed from these nebulas. _____
4. Many stars in the sky died years ago. _____
5. Some stars are hidden behind dark nebulas. _____
6. Even astronomers cannot see these stars with powerful telescopes. _____
7. Star clusters held together by gravity are called galaxies. _____
8. Galaxies are found throughout the universe. _____
9. Alpha Centauri is the star closest to our solar system. _____
10. Scientists have many theories about star formation. _____

B. Identifying Prepositional Phrases as Modifiers

Underline the prepositional phrase in each sentence once. Underline the word it modifies twice. Then, in the blank, write **ADJ** or **ADV** to identify what kind of prepositional phrase it is.

EXAMPLE Many scientific discoveries are made by chance. ADV

1. Where would we be without creative geniuses? _____
2. Consider the wonders of modern medical science. _____
3. Hundreds of new drugs now prolong our lives. _____
4. Other inventions around the world have made life easier. _____
5. Pierre Verdon of France developed the food processor. _____
6. The microwave oven was invented in 1946. _____
7. Microwave ovens for the home came much later, however. _____
8. During the 1970s, the first home video games were sold. _____
9. Compare them to today's challenging games. _____
10. With their high-tech graphics, today's video games are entertaining. _____
11. Imagine life today without the personal computer. _____
12. Its invention in 1978 revolutionized technology. _____