

# Identifying prepositional phrases

The subject and verb of a sentence give us basic information.

The earth revolves. ▼



**Prepositional phrases** give us information about time, place, and circumstance.



**Place** The earth revolves **around the sun.** ▼

**Time** The earth revolves **during the year.**

**TIP**

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# Identifying prepositional phrases

A **prepositional phrase** contains ▼

- a preposition ▼
- a noun or pronoun  
(object of the preposition) ▼
- any modifiers of the object ▼



inside

grand, glittering

rooms

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# Identifying prepositional phrases

TIP

Grammar  
Gal Says...



Here is a way to recognize some prepositions.

Fill the blank in the sentence  
“The book lies \_\_\_\_\_ the table.”

The book lies **beside** the table.

Preposition

The book lies **cluttering** the table.

Not a  
preposition

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# Identifying prepositional phrases

Prepositional phrases can be lined up, side by side, to add even more detail to writing. ▼

around the sun during the year ▼



around the sun during the course of a year

**PRACTICE**

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# Identifying prepositional phrases

**PRACTICE** Identify each prepositional phrase in the following sentences. Note that a sentence may contain more than one prepositional phrase.

1. Look to the right as you enter the room.

Answer

2. Beside the door was a pedestal holding a large vase of flowers.

Answer

3. Nina decided to save the story for next month's issue of the newsletter.

Answer

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# Identifying prepositional phrases

**PRACTICE** Identify each prepositional phrase in the following sentences. Note that a sentence may contain more than one prepositional phrase.

1. Look **to the right** as you enter the room.

The prepositional phrase *to the right* modifies the verb *look* and shows where the person is to look.

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# Identifying prepositional phrases

**PRACTICE** Identify each prepositional phrase in the following sentences. Note that a sentence may contain more than one prepositional phrase.

2. **Beside the door** was a pedestal holding a large vase **of flowers**.

The prepositional phrase *Beside the door* modifies the verb *was* and shows where the pedestal was located. *Of flowers* modifies *vase* and shows what kind of vase it was.

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# Identifying prepositional phrases

**PRACTICE** Identify each prepositional phrase in the following sentences. Note that a sentence may contain more than one prepositional phrase.

3. Nina decided to save the story **for next month's issue** **of the newsletter**.

The prepositional phrase *for next month's issue of the newsletter* modifies the verb *save*. Within that phrase, *of the newsletter* modifies *issue* and shows what kind of issue it is.

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# Adding detail with prepositional phrases

Prepositional phrases provide detail by answering the following questions. ▼

**Where?** ▼ Our lunch at Joe's diner was delayed. ▼

**When?** ▼ Our lunch was delayed for an hour. ▼

**How?** ▼ Our lunch was delayed by a large order. ▼

**What kind?**  
**Which one?** ▼ Our lunch with Rebecca was delayed.

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# Adding detail with prepositional phrases

Here are ways to make your sentences more detailed.

**1.** Ask where, when, or how the action took place.

We crossed the stream.

**Where?**

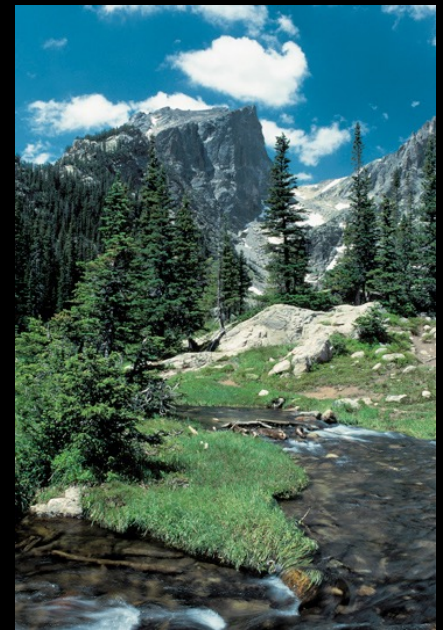
We crossed the stream **in the mountains.**

**When?**

We crossed the stream **on Saturday.**

**How?**

We crossed the stream **by jumping from rock to rock.**



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# Adding detail with prepositional phrases

**PRACTICE** Add detail to each of the following sentences by using prepositional phrases. Prepare to explain the question that each phrase answers.

1. Mosquitoes buzzed **over the lake**.

[possible answer]

The prepositional phrase *over the lake* answers the question “Where (did the mosquitoes buzz)?”

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# Adding detail with prepositional phrases

**PRACTICE** Add detail to each of the following sentences by using prepositional phrases. Prepare to explain the question that each phrase answers.

2. Traffic clogs the streets **after four o'clock.**

[possible answer]

The prepositional phrase *after four o'clock* answers the question “When (does traffic clog the streets)?”

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# Adding detail with prepositional phrases

**PRACTICE** Add detail to each of the following sentences by using prepositional phrases. Prepare to explain the question that each phrase answers.

3. Students will learn best **by reviewing their notes after the lesson.**

The prepositional phrase *by reviewing their notes* answers the question “How (will they learn best)?” The phrase *after the lesson* answers the question “When (will they review their notes)?”

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