

## Learning About Prepositional Phrases

### Reading and Discussion

Before we look at **prepositional phrases** let's make sure we remember what a **preposition** is and what a **phrase** is.

A preposition is a word that links **nouns** to other words in a sentence. It tells us about three things:

- Time
- Place
- Direction.

Some examples of prepositions are: **after**, **under**, and **through**.

A phrase differs from a sentence in that it does not contain both a **subject** and a **predicate**. There are many different kinds of phrases, such as noun phrases, verb phrases, and, of course, **prepositional phrases**.

A prepositional phrase is made up of a **preposition** and the **object** of the preposition. It usually begins with a preposition and ends with a noun. For example:

- She is **at home**. **At** is a preposition, and **home** is a noun.

Prepositional phrases may also end with a pronoun, a noun clause, or a **gerund**. Gerunds are **ing** words such as singing, walking, and playing.

The object of the preposition often has a **modifier** to describe it. For example:

- The boy walked **under the tall trees**.

**Under** is a preposition; **trees** is a noun; **the** and **tall** are modifiers.

A prepositional phrase can act an **adjective** or as an **adverb**. As an adjective it describes the noun by answering the question **which?** For example:

- **Which** boy? The boy **on the bus**.

As an adverb it describes the verb by answering the questions **how**, **when**, or **where?** For example:

- **Where** did the boy walk? The boy walked **under the tall trees**.
- **When** did she go to bed? She went to bed **after supper**.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Activities

**Activity A:** Identify the prepositional phrases.

Read the following paragraph and then underline all the prepositional phrases you can find.

The big Grizzly from the Rockies wandered down the forest path, stopping only to eat a few berries on the way. Soon he heard the sound of running water and turned off the pathway. He found himself on the river bank. Leaping through the rushing water were the biggest, fattest salmon the bear had ever seen. He scrambled across the rocks and soon he was standing in the middle of the river, scooping up the big fish and stuffing them into his jaws.

**Activity B:** Fill in the phrases.

Here are a few simple sentences. Can you think of some prepositional phrases that would make them more interesting? The first one has been done for you.

1. The boy ran.  
The boy from the village ran across the grass.
2. The kitten hid.
3. The bird flew.
4. The girl wrote.
5. The fish swam.
6. The man slept.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Answer Key

### Activity A

The big Grizzly from the Rockies wandered down the forest path, stopping only to eat a few berries on the way. Soon he heard the sound of running water and turned off the pathway. He found himself on the river bank. Leaping through the rushing water were the biggest, fattest salmon the bear had ever seen. He scrambled across the rocks and soon he was standing in the middle of the river, scooping up the big fish and stuffing them into his jaws.

### Activity B

Any relevant prepositional phrases would be acceptable.