

Lesson 11: Prepositional Phrases

A prepositional phrase consists of a preposition followed by a noun or pronoun that serves as its object. Most prepositions are short words. The expression "anywhere a mouse can go" will help you think of many prepositions. A mouse can go on, in, into, to, out, over, under, around, down, up, between, etc. Some prepositions, however, have nothing to do with direction, e.g., at, with, without, for, after, since, and until. These are not complete lists.

Remember that a preposition must have an object. In the sentence *They came down the stairs*, *down* is a preposition (its object is *stairs*), whereas in the sentence *They came down*, *down* is an 'adverb (it cannot be a preposition because it has no object).

Many prepositional phrases modify verbs. The prepositional phrases in the following sentences are underlined. Take the dog with you. A few astronauts have flown to the moon. She is carrying a backpack into the library.



Now it's your turn to diagram prepositional phrases that modify verbs.

1. My dad put the pumpkins on the porch.

5. Is Nick going to school tomorrow?

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2. Can you hit a nail with a hammer?

6. Stand in the corner!

3. The couple carried their suitcases into the airport.

7. Did you put the tickets in your purse?

4. Give the book to the teacher immediately.

8. In my dream I walked into a very large room.



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