

Grade 4 Playlist: Prepositional Phrases

Aligns with *CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.4.1.E*:

- Form and use prepositional phrases.

Welcome

It is hard to include a lot of details in a sentence without using prepositional phrases. These groups of words add more specific information to a sentence. Being able to identify a prepositional phrase can help a reader understand a sentence better. It is also important for writers to know how to form and use prepositional phrases.

Objectives

In this playlist, the student will learn and practice how to:

- identify prepositional phrases in a sentence.
- identify the parts of a prepositional phrase.
- use prepositional phrases when writing.

Review

Key Terms

- **Prepositions** connect a noun or pronoun to another word in the sentence.
- **Prepositional phrases** are groups of words that act as adjectives and adverbs.
- **Adjectives** describe a noun or pronoun.
- **Adverbs** describe an adjective, verb, or another adverb.

Exploring the Standard

Using prepositional phrases when writing can help answer questions for the reader such as *Which one?*, *When?*, *Where?*, and *How?* Writers can be more specific if they know how to form and use prepositional phrases.

Watch!

This song explains how prepositions are used.

- <https://www.opened.com/video/schoolhouse-rock-prepositions-youtube/178390>



A Closer Look: Identifying a Prepositional Phrase

Prepositional phrases can be found anywhere in a sentence. The best way to spot one is to look for the preposition that begins the phrase. Prepositions are words that describe location, direction, time, and other details. This chart lists some of the most common prepositions:

LOCATION	DIRECTION	TIME	OTHER
above	on	after	except
across	opposite	before	as
along	out (of)	at	like
at	outside	by	about
away from	over	for	with
behind	around	during	without
below	through	from	by
between	to	in	for
in front of	toward		
inside	under		
	up		

Look at these three sentences:

1. **Across** the wide, dark room, there was an odd painting.
2. The hotdog stand **on** the corner was very popular.
3. The friends ate dinner **after** practice.

The prepositional phrases are used in the beginning, middle, and end of the sentences. In each of these examples, the preposition begins the prepositional phrase.

Watch!

These two music videos give some examples of common prepositions:

- <https://www.opened.com/video/preposition-by-the-bazillions/117872>
- <https://www.opened.com/video/gimme-prepositional-phrase-preposition-song-youtube/117293>



Caution!

Verbs are never used in prepositional phrases. For instance, the phrase “before he left” has the preposition “before.” However, it doesn’t have an object that is a noun or a pronoun, because “he” is a subject rather than an object. It is not a prepositional phrase. In contrast, the phrase “before the flood” uses the same preposition, but it also has the object “flood.” Therefore, it is a prepositional phrase.

Practice!

Practice identifying the parts of a prepositional phrase with this activity:

- <https://www.ixl.com/ela/grade-4/prepositions-review>

A Closer Look: Using Prepositional Phrases

Writers can use prepositional phrases to answer questions that the reader might have. Prepositional phrases also help to make simple sentences more interesting.

Prepositional phrases as adjectives:

Adjectives modify, or describe, nouns and pronouns. Look at this sentence: “The **tall** woman finished the **difficult** marathon.” The words “tall” and “difficult” act as adjectives because they modify the nouns “woman” and “marathon.” Prepositional phrases can function the same way:

The woman **in the blue shirt** finished the marathon **in Chicago**.

The prepositional phrase “in the blue shirt” answers the question, “Which woman?” The prepositional phrase “in Chicago” answers the question, “Where is the marathon?” Both phrases modify nouns.

Prepositional phrases as adverbs:

Adverbs modify verbs, adjectives, and other adverbs. Look at this sentence: “He was **really** sore, so he **almost immediately** scheduled a massage.” The adverb “really” modifies the adjective “sore.” The adverb “almost” modifies the adverb “immediately.” The adverb “immediately” modifies the verb “scheduled.” Now look at a similar sentence using prepositional phrases.

He was sore **from his workout**, so he went **to the spa** immediately **after work**.

The phrase “from his workout” answers the question, “Why was the man sore?” The phrase “to the spa” answers the question, “Where did the man go?” The phrase “after work” answers the question, “When did he go?”

Using multiple prepositional phrases:

Writers can use more than one prepositional phrase in a row.

1. The shovel **with the blue handle** is rusted.
2. The shovel **in the shed** is rusted.



If these sentences are referring to the same shovel, they can be combined into one sentence:

The shovel **with the blue handle in the shed** is rusted.

Prepositional phrases can also modify the objects of other prepositional phrases.

The artist painted **in the studio near the lake between the two cities**.

“In the studio” modifies “painted.” “Near the lake” modifies “studio.” “Between the two cities” modifies “lake.”

Caution!

Be sure to pay attention to where prepositional phrases are in the sentence. The same prepositional phrase in different positions can change the meaning of a sentence:

1. **In the cabin**, the family watched the bear. (*Meaning: The family is in the cabin watching the bear.*)
2. The family watched the bear **in the cabin**. (*Meaning: The family is watching the bear that is in the cabin.*)

Practice!

Complete this worksheet to practice using prepositional phrases in sentences:

- <http://www.k12reader.com/worksheet/picturing-prepositions/>

Applying the Standard

Prepositional phrases help answer questions about other words in the sentence. Practice using prepositional phrases by writing a paragraph that uses six prepositional phrases. Three phrases should function as adjectives and three should function as adverbs. Use one of these topics:

- Describe a time your class went on a field trip. Where did you go? How did you get there?
- What is your favorite sport or board game? What are the rules of the game?
- What are some places near your home? How do you get to those places?
- Tell a short story about a character on a shopping trip. What did the character buy? Where?



Self-Check: L.4.1.E

1. Out of the words in the word-bank given below, which words combine to create a prepositional phrase?
Write your answer in the table given below.

Word-bank

during
the
day
my
grandmother
has

Word_1	Word_2	Word_3	Final Prepositional Phrase

2. Select words from the given word-bank that complete each of the given sentences.

We found the missing shoe _____ the bed.

I am happy to spend a night _____ home playing board games with my family.

We learned all _____ the artwork from the leader who gave us a tour of the museum.

Word-Bank

above
under
for
at
about
beyond
past

3. Out of all the underlined phrases below, which **three** prepositional phrases are **not** correct?

Our gym teacher prepared an obstacle course for us in the school gym. First, we had to run toward the wall and duck beneath a wooden plank. Then, we had to jump within several hula hoops. Next, we circled along a stack of chairs. Finally, we had to hop on one foot next to a piece of tape under the floor and run across the finish line.

4. Out of all the underlined phrases below, which **three** prepositional phrases are **not** correct?

The youngest player in the high school basketball team is really amazing. He is quite tall so he can shoot over the heads of other players. He passes the ball through his teammates. He can make baskets from the far end of the court. When playing defense, he manages to get himself between the ball and the hoop. The team is lucky to have him playing below the court.

