

# Prepositional Phrases

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Score: \_\_\_\_\_ / 10



## Quick Review

A preposition is a word like in, on, under, behind, with, or near. A prepositional phrase starts with the preposition and ends with a noun or pronoun (the object): 'under the big bed'. Watch out: a word like 'up' can be a preposition ('up the hill') OR a phrasal-verb particle ('look up the word'). 'To' before a verb ('to swim') is an infinitive, not a prepositional phrase.

## PRACTICE

Find the prepositional phrase or choose the best preposition.

- Which group of words is a true prepositional phrase?
  - ran very fast
  - feeling really happy
  - under the front porch
  - to swim quickly
- Which prepositional phrase is in this sentence? The kitten jumped onto the soft pillow.
  - onto the soft pillow
  - The kitten jumped
  - jumped onto
  - the soft pillow
- Choose the best preposition: The squirrel hid \_\_\_\_\_ the tall oak tree.
  - between
  - during
  - beside
  - behind
- Choose the best preposition: We will leave for camp \_\_\_\_\_ Sunday morning.
  - in
  - at
  - by
  - on



5. Choose the best preposition: I keep my markers \_\_\_\_\_ a plastic bin.
  - A. in
  - B. on
  - C. above
  - D. between
6. Which sentence has TWO prepositional phrases?
  - A. The dog barked loudly at the mailman.
  - B. She ran across the field after school.
  - C. We laughed at the silly joke.
  - D. He sang quietly to himself.
7. Underline the prepositional phrase by writing it here: The book on the top shelf is mine.  
Answer: \_\_\_\_\_
8. In which sentence is 'up' a PREPOSITION (part of a prepositional phrase), not a phrasal-verb particle?
  - A. Please look up the new word in the dictionary.
  - B. The climber walked up the steep hill.
  - C. Don't give up so easily.
  - D. She picked up her scattered toys.
9. True or False: A prepositional phrase always ends with a verb.  
**T / F**
10. Write one sentence about your classroom that contains a prepositional phrase. Underline the phrase.  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
  
\_\_\_\_\_



## Answer Keys

- 1  A  B  C  D
- 2  A  B  C  D
- 3  A  B  C  D
- 4  A  B  C  D
- 5  A  B  C  D

- 6  A  B  C  D
- 7
- 8  A  B  C  D
- 9  T  F
- 10

### Explanations

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| <b>1. C</b>     | A prepositional phrase = preposition + noun/pronoun object. C: 'under' (prep) + 'porch' (noun). A is verb + adverb; B is verb + adverb + adjective; D is an INFINITIVE ('to swim') — the 'to' is a verb marker, not a preposition.  |
| <b>2. A</b>     | The phrase starts with the preposition 'onto' and ends with the noun object 'pillow'. B is subject + verb; C is verb + preposition (no object); D is just a noun phrase (no preposition).   |
| <b>3. D</b>     | 'Behind' fits 'hid'. 'Between' needs TWO things ('between the trees'); 'during' is for time ('during the storm'); 'beside' = next to, which doesn't hide the squirrel.  |
| <b>4. D</b>     | Use 'on' with days of the week. 'In' is for months/years; 'at' is for clock times ('at 6:00'); 'by' would mean 'no later than Sunday', a different meaning.   |
| <b>5. A</b>     | 'In' = inside a container. 'On' would mean resting on top of the bin; 'above' = higher than the bin (not touching); 'between' would need two bins.  |
| <b>6. B</b>     | B has 'across the field' AND 'after school' — two phrases. A has only 'at the mailman' ('loudly' is an adverb). C has only 'at the joke'. D has only 'to himself' ('quietly' is an adverb).   |
| <b>7.</b>       | <b>Answer:</b> on the top shelf<br>Phrase = preposition 'on' + noun object 'shelf' (with adjectives 'the top' modifying 'shelf').<br>Accept: 'on the top shelf'. Common wrong answers: 'on the' (missing the noun object); 'the top shelf' (no preposition); 'on top' (missing 'the shelf').  |
| <b>8. B</b>     | In B, 'up the steep hill' = preposition + noun = prepositional phrase. A, C, and D are PHRASAL VERBS ('look up' = search, 'give up' = quit, 'pick up' = collect). In phrasal verbs, 'up' is a particle attached to the verb, not a preposition with its own object.   |
| <b>9. False</b> | It ends with a noun or pronoun (the object of the preposition).   |
| <b>10.</b>      | <b>Answer:</b> Example: My backpack is under my desk.<br>Sentence must contain a true prepositional phrase (preposition + noun/pronoun object) AND that phrase must be underlined or clearly marked. Mark wrong: phrase that is actually an infinitive (e.g. 'to read'); phrase with no object ('on the'); a phrasal verb labeled as a prepositional phrase (e.g. underlining 'look up'). |



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