

Prepositional Phrases

The prepositional phrase works as either an adjective (modifying a noun) or an adverb (modifying a verb, adjective, or adverb).

Prepositional Phrase = adjective or adverb

preposition + optional modifiers + noun (object of the preposition)

When writing and identifying prepositional phrases, it is **helpful to memorize the list of common prepositions**. Keep the following points in mind when using the list.

- * *This is not a complete list. It is only the most common prepositions*
- * *Prepositions can be made up of more than one word like "on top of."*
- * *The words on this list are only prepositions when they are part of a prepositional phrase. They can also function as adverbs on their own.*

DOWN as a preposition: Jack fell down the hill.

DOWN as an adverb: Jack fell down.

about	behind	for	of	past	up
above	below	from	off	since	upon
across	beside	in	on	through	with
after	between	in front of	on top of	to	within
along	by	inside	out of	toward	without
around	down	into	outside	under	
at	during	like	outside	underneath	
before	except	near	over	until	

ADVERBS
HOW? WHEN?
WHERE? WHY?
MANNER?

washed our hands before dinner
gathered into a tight ball

everything except her shoes
hair like a nest of snakes

ADJECTIVES
HOW MANY?
WHAT KIND?
WHOSE?
WHICH?

Appositive Phrases

An appositive is a noun that renames another noun.

Appositive Phrase = renaming a noun

noun + optional modifiers

THOMAS EDISON
renames
INVENTOR

the noted inventor Thomas Edison

Lily's stuffed animal, a spotted Giraffe with fuzzy ears

GIRAFFE
renames
ANIMAL

Verbal Phrases

Infinitives, gerunds, and participials are sometimes referred to as verbals because they are phrases based on the principal parts of the verb.

Infinitive Phrase = noun, adverb, or adjective

"TO" + base form of the verb + complements and modifiers (optional)

Gerund Phrase = noun

present participle form of the verb + complements and modifiers (optional)

Participial Phrase = adjective

present or past participle form of the verb + complements and modifiers (optional)

When writing and identifying infinitive, gerund, and participial phrases, it is **helpful to recall the four principal parts of verbs**. The base form of the verb is used in forming infinitives. The present and past participle are used in forming gerunds and participials.

Four Principal Parts of Irregular Verbs

Base	Past (variable)	Present Participle (-ing)	Past Participle (variable)
<u>freeze</u>	<u>froze</u>	are <u>freezing</u>	have <u>frozen</u>
<u>catch</u>	<u>caught</u>	are <u>catching</u>	have <u>caught</u>
<u>eat</u>	<u>ate</u>	are <u>eating</u>	have <u>eaten</u>

Four Principal Parts of Regular Verbs

Base	Past (-ed)	Present Participle (-ing)	Past Participle (-ed)
<u>jog</u>	<u>jogged</u>	are <u>jogging</u>	have <u>jogged</u>
<u>wait</u>	<u>waited</u>	are <u>waiting</u>	have <u>waited</u>
<u>struggle</u>	<u>struggled</u>	are <u>struggling</u>	have <u>struggled</u>

NOUN

Infinitive Phrases

To win the race is Rachel's goal.

Mahogany is the best wood to use for carving.

Lily read the last three chapters to prepare for the test.

ADJECTIVE

ADVERB

NOUNS

Gerund Phrases

Baking cupcakes is Courtney's hobby.

The whole family loves surfing at Laguna Beach.

ADJECTIVES

Participial Phrases

Making faces, the girl gazed at herself in the mirror.

The lake, frozen in winter, was their skating rink.