

2. In this sentence, the prepositional phrase *in the north* acts as an adjective modifying the noun *star*. *In* relates *north* to *star*. The sentence features a past tense linking verb, *was*, and a subject complement, *Polaris*.

The	star	in	the	north	was	Polaris.
adj.	n.	prep.	adj.	n.	v.	n.
	subj.				LVP	S.C.
		-----prep. phrase----				

Notice that *north* cannot be the subject of the sentence. The subject will never be in a prepositional phrase. The meaning of the sentence is not that the north was Polaris. The star was Polaris; *star* is the subject.

Here, *in* is the preposition, *north* is the object of the preposition, and *in* shows the relationship of its object, *north*, to another word in the sentence, *star*.

3. In the next sentence, the prepositional phrase is at the beginning of the sentence, so it modifies the verb. It means that the star shone in the north. There is an action verb, *shone*, but there is no direct object.

In is the preposition, *north* is the object of the preposition, and *in* shows a relationship of space between *north* and *shone*.

In	the	north	Polaris	shone	down	brightly.
prep.	adj.	n.	n.	v.	adv.	adv.
---prep. phrase---			subj.	AVP		

Part of the fun of studying prepositional phrases is noticing how easy they are. You always see the same pattern: a group of words beginning with a preposition and acting as a modifier—an adjective or an adverb.