

There are many kinds of relationships—dozens and dozens—not just space and time. Here are a few examples:

SPACE: The chicken **on** the **slope** looked up.

TIME: The chicken went **before** the **duck**.

DIRECTION: A chicken ran **toward** the **duck**.

SIMILARITY: The chicken was **like** a **duck**.

MANNER: The chicken ate **with gusto**.

CAUSE: The chicken shivered **with cold**.

POSSESSION: I saw chickens **of** the **people**.

Finally, remember that the object of a preposition can *never* be a part of sentence (level two). It can never be the subject or the direct object, for example. Prepositional phrases are only modifiers, not nouns.

Let us look at two more examples.

1. Here, the prepositional phrase *during the storm* acts as an adverb to modify the action verb *ate*.

|                        |            |              |             |            |            |                 |
|------------------------|------------|--------------|-------------|------------|------------|-----------------|
| <i>During</i>          | <i>the</i> | <i>storm</i> | <i>Gawk</i> | <i>ate</i> | <i>his</i> | <i>noodles.</i> |
| prep.                  | adj.       | n.           | n.          | v.         | adj.       | n.              |
|                        |            |              | subj.       | AVP        | D.O.       |                 |
| -----prep. phrase----- |            |              |             |            |            |                 |

2. Here we see a linking verb, *was*, that links the subject to the subject complement. The prepositional phrase acts as an adjective to modify the noun *monster*.

|            |             |            |          |                |           |                   |
|------------|-------------|------------|----------|----------------|-----------|-------------------|
| <i>The</i> | <i>bird</i> | <i>was</i> | <i>a</i> | <i>monster</i> | <i>in</i> | <i>disguise.</i>  |
| adj.       | n.          | v.         | adj.     | n.             | prep.     | n.                |
| subj.      |             | LVP        | S.C.     |                |           |                   |
|            |             |            |          |                |           | ---prep. phrase-- |

## Act Eight Practice Sentences

One more time, let us find the three terms of a prepositional phrase with the definition in mind: a preposition shows the relationship between its object and another word in the sentence. For each sentence, identify the *prepositional phrase*, the *preposition*, the *object* of the preposition, and the **word** that the prepositional phrase modifies. Then tell whether the preposition is acting as an adjective or an adverb.

1. The chicken howled during the fall.
2. The snail with the scarf ate pancakes.
3. In the forest, the monster ate pancakes.
4. The chicken, like a monster, ate pancakes.
5. The monster on the dune was growling.
6. The beagle barked at the three monsters.