



In four-level analysis we will identify all phrases on line three, but it is also helpful to see a visual representation of how phrases work in sentences. We will use the MCT sentence model. Notice how prepositional phrases never include any parts of sentence; they are separated in the same way that other modifiers are. That is because prepositional phrases are only modifiers; they are multi-word adjectives or adverbs.

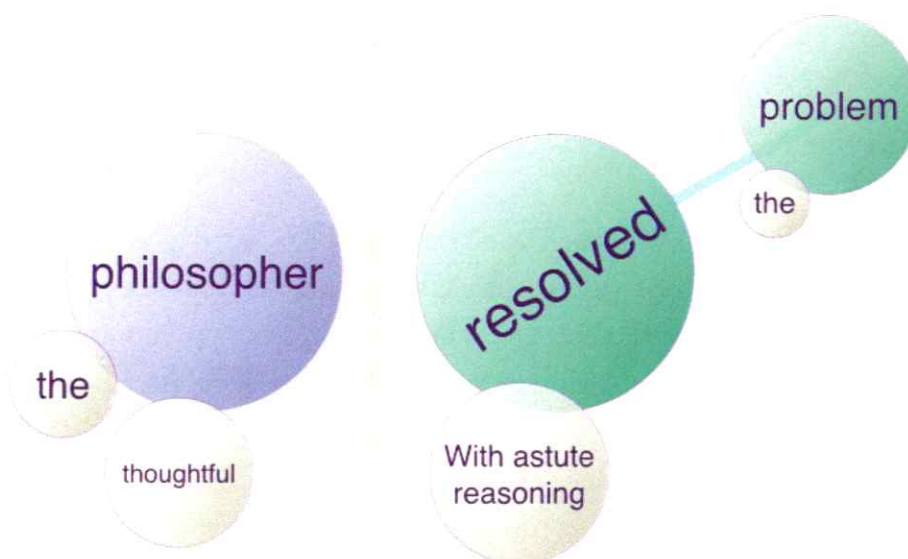
With astute reasoning the thoughtful philosopher resolved the problem.

prep. adj. n. adj. adj. n. v. adj. n.

subj. AVP D.O.

-----prep. phrase-----

Here the introductory prepositional phrase acts as an adverb to modify the verb. It is a group of three words that does a one-word job. We use no comma after *reasoning* because the phrase is a short, single phrase. Notice that *reasoning* is a noun and is the object of the preposition *with*, and *with* shows the relationship between its object *reasoning* and the other word in the sentence, *resolved*. The phrase acts as an adverb modifying a verb.





In Greece Homer wrote a poem of epic proportions.

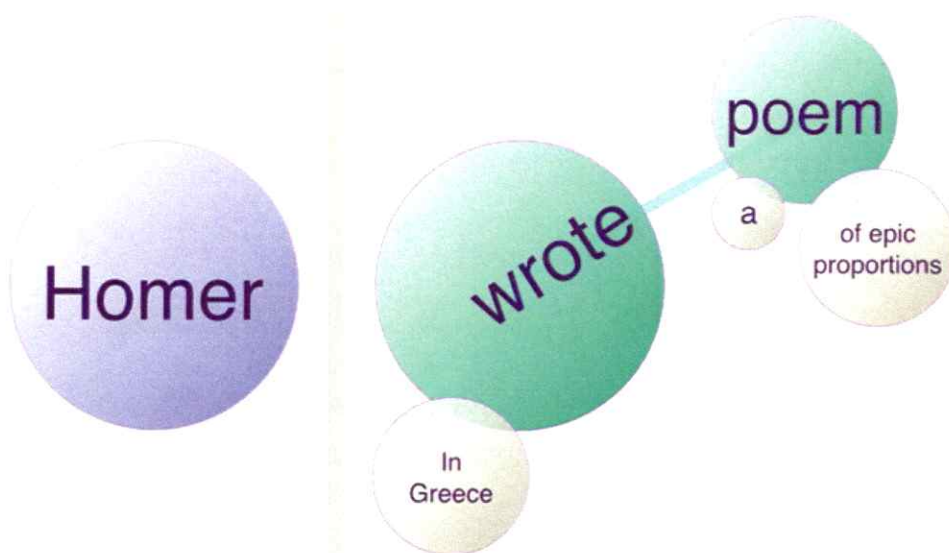
prep. n. n. v. adj. n. prep. adj. n.

subj. AVP D.O.

----prep. phrase----

-----prep. phrase-----

Many sentences have more than one prepositional phrase. Here an introductory phrase modifies the verb, and another phrase acts as an adjective to modify the direct object.



Remember, the object of preposition is never also a direct object or other part of sentence. If a noun is the object of preposition, then that is all it is.

