

Prepositions and Prepositional Phrases

Prepositional phrases are phrases that modify nouns and verbs, and prepositional phrases add more information to those nouns or verbs. Prepositions often show relationships of time and

prepositional phrase—oftentimes

In these examples, “at the bus stop in the rain” and “near the sign” are nominal prepositional phrases: they function as subjects. Notice the awkward sentence structure in these two examples—awkwardness is the main reason why nominal prepositional phrases are so rare.

Note of Caution

Some words can function as multiple parts of speech, and multiple prepositions fall into this category. The word “for” is one such word; it can function as a preposition and as a coordination conjunction. (See our handout on [coordinating conjunctions](#) for more details.) The word “to” is another word pulling double duty, as mentioned earlier: it functions as a preposition and as an infinitive verb marker. (Infinitive verbs are unconjugated verbs that are directly preceded by “to.” See our handout on [infinitives](#) for more details.)

Activity 1: Identify Prepositional Phrases

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Activity 2: Create Your Own Prepositional Phrases

Here are some sentence frames to which you can