

# Adverbial Phrases

An adverbial phrase is a group of words that act together as an adverb, giving more information about a verb, adjective, or other adverb in a sentence. The adverbial phrase answers the same questions as a regular adverb: *how/how much, when, or where*.



Do not do the crossed out items.

**Underline the adverbial phrase. On the line, write the question it answers.**

1. We expect our grandparents to arrive in about an hour. \_\_\_\_\_
2. ~~My cousin watches television almost as much as you do.~~ \_\_\_\_\_
3. ~~The weatherman says it will rain all day.~~ \_\_\_\_\_
4. ~~Your brother plays soccer better than my brother does.~~ \_\_\_\_\_
5. Our friend drives on Mondays. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Stacy and Nancy will walk on the sidewalk. \_\_\_\_\_
7. The snake slithers through the tall grass. \_\_\_\_\_
8. ~~Mom combs my hair more gently than Dad does.~~ \_\_\_\_\_
9. He found his lucky penny in the morning. \_\_\_\_\_
10. We raced our toy cars on the playground. \_\_\_\_\_
11. Shayla and Coral were reading their books in the car. \_\_\_\_\_
12. ~~The music teacher played the piano better than her student.~~ \_\_\_\_\_
13. Jenny tried to talk to Peter underneath the water. \_\_\_\_\_
14. Early in the morning the air is cold and fresh. \_\_\_\_\_
15. ~~Mom will pick us up after school is out.~~ \_\_\_\_\_
16. Jan will run on the track at school. \_\_\_\_\_

### **Adverb Phrases Exercise**

Underline the adverb phrases in the following sentences. Circle the word that the adverb phrase modifies.

Notes: An adverb phrase is a group of words that serves the same purpose as an adverb.

1. She lives in a palatial home.
2. She ran into her room.
3. They chatted for a while.
4. She performed the task with great skill.
5. The desert stretched towards the north.
6. The fishers went sailing over the sea.
7. He lay beside the heap of corn.
8. She whispered in his ear.
9. He fought with all his might.
10. He shouted at the top of his voice.
11. It must be done at any cost.
12. Much water has run under the bridge.

## 20.1

**Prepositional Phrases (Adverb) • Practice 1**

**Phrases That Act as Adverbs** An adverb phrase is a prepositional phrase that modifies a verb, adjective, or adverb. Adverb phrases point out where, in what manner, or to what extent.

Adverbs	Adverb Phrases
He painted the boat <i>carefully</i> .	He painted the boat <i>with care</i> . (Painted in <i>what manner</i> ?)
Leave the radio <i>there</i> .	Leave the radio in <i>your room</i> . (Leave <i>Where</i> ?)

**Exercise 1** **Recognizing Adverb Phrases.** Underline the adverb phrases in these sentences and circle the word that each phrase modifies.

**EXAMPLE:** He hung his clothes in the closet.

1. Anne was upset about her long homework assignment.
2. The French army retreated down the valley.
3. In a panic, she ran out.
4. The goalie stopped the ball in front of the net.
5. Bob always arrives late for work.
6. We feel optimistic about our chances for victory.
7. The plane flew from Detroit to Miami.
8. With a broad smile, the politician acknowledged the cheers of the crowd.
9. Thunder rumbled across the sky.
10. I will answer your question in a moment.

**Exercise 2** **Writing Sentences with Adverb Phrases.** Write a sentence using the adverb phrase in parentheses. *\* Do the odds only.*

**EXAMPLE:** (in time) Will we reach the airport in time?

1. (in the past) \_\_\_\_\_
2. (at sunset) \_\_\_\_\_
3. (across the desert) \_\_\_\_\_
4. (under the sea) \_\_\_\_\_
5. (with the election results) \_\_\_\_\_
6. (in the morning) \_\_\_\_\_
7. (after school) \_\_\_\_\_
8. (down the river) \_\_\_\_\_
9. (close to the finish line) \_\_\_\_\_
10. (over the bridge) \_\_\_\_\_

## 20.1

**Prepositional Phrases (Adverb) • Practice 2**

**Exercise 1 Identifying Adverb Phrases.** Each of the sentences contains at least one prepositional phrase used as an adverb. Underline each adverb phrase and draw an arrow from it to the word it modifies.

**EXAMPLE:** By chance they always lived near busy urban airports.

1. The trout stream winds through the forest.
2. Alice was early with her science report.
3. At dawn they prepared for the rescue attempt.
4. She seems happy with her new job.
5. At the hotel the visitor learned about the delay.
6. The astronauts arrived late for the test run.
7. In a well-prepared speech, Larissa explained her decision.
8. We piled flowers and other decorations near the station wagon.
9. From the doctor's office, she drove to the library.
10. Our coach is happy about our victory.

**Writing Application Writing Sentences with Prepositional Phrases.** Write sentences using the given prepositional phrases as adjectives or adverbs, according to the instructions in parentheses. Underline each phrase and draw an arrow from it to the word it modifies.

**EXAMPLE:** through the city (as an adverb phrase)

*The river flows through the city.*

1. in the afternoon (as an adverb phrase)

\_\_\_\_\_

2. on the hanger (as an adjective phrase)

\_\_\_\_\_

3. in the white shoes (as an adjective phrase)

\_\_\_\_\_

4. to the museum director (as an adverb phrase)

\_\_\_\_\_

5. near cool water (as an adverb phrase)

\_\_\_\_\_

# Adverb Prepositional Phrases

Like a one-word adverb, an adverb prepositional phrase usually modifies a verb and may tell *where*, *how*, or *when* an action takes place.

We play ball in the park. (Tells *where* we play)

She called in a loud voice. (Tells *how* she called)

Mom gave us smiles throughout the day. (Tells *when* Mom gave)



- In the following sentences, underline the prepositional phrases and circle the words being modified.

1. The stands sagged under the students' weight.
  2. My biology book fell into the puddle.
  3. Ron, the champion runner, jumped over the hurdle with ease.
  4. The gifts were wrapped with care and placed under the tree.
  5. Marithia and Tinita walked under the bridge.
  6. Several jumpers pushed from the plane too early.
  7. The firefighters rushed into the forest.
  8. After the defeat the team traveled alone through the night.
  9. You will find Gerald sitting behind the barn.
  10. The Amish travel everywhere in their buggies.
  11. The birds flew into the tree.
  12. The girl danced with graceful movements.
  13. Lightning flashes around the clouds.
  14. A tornado moves with shocking speed.
- Write your own sentences using the prepositional phrases below as adverbs. Underline the phrase and circle the preposition.
1. in another language \_\_\_\_\_
  2. in his math class \_\_\_\_\_
  3. under the bed \_\_\_\_\_
  4. during the fifth inning \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ CLASS \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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**Adjective and Adverb Phrases A**

**5c.** A prepositional phrase that modifies a noun or a pronoun is called an *adjective phrase*.

An *adjective phrase* tells *what kind* or *which one*.

**EXAMPLE** What do you think influences the changes in hairstyles? [The adjective phrase modifies the noun *changes*, telling *what kind*.]

**5d.** A prepositional phrase that modifies a verb, an adjective, or an adverb is called an *adverb phrase*.

An *adverb phrase* tells *how*, *when*, *where*, *why*, or *to what extent*.

**EXAMPLE** Why do you think some hairstyles remain popular for only a short time? [The adverb phrase modifies the adjective *popular*, telling *to what extent*.]

**EXERCISE A** In each of the following sentences, circle the word or words that the underlined prepositional phrase modifies. Then, identify the phrase by writing above it *ADJ* for *adjective phrase* or *ADV* for *adverb phrase*.

**Example 1.** <sup>ADV</sup> Throughout the night, water from the ceiling annoyingly dripped into the bucket.

1. Sonya is good at soccer.
2. Raphael enjoys reading articles about early space exploration.
3. Throughout the spring, Archimedes spent much time fishing.
4. The young cheetah quietly crouched behind the tall, yellow grass.
5. Herbert watched an informative video on the air battles of World War II.

**EXERCISE B** In each of the following sentences, underline each prepositional phrase. Then, identify the phrase by writing above it *ADJ* for *adjective phrase* or *ADV* for *adverb phrase*.

**Example 1.** <sup>ADJ</sup> The store on the corner was damaged <sup>ADV</sup> during a severe hailstorm.

6. The day before Memorial Day, Henry visited his grandfather for two hours.
7. With great skill, the doctor removed several tiny shards of glass.
8. Elizabeth's essay about England during Victorian times earned her an A.

9. During the celebration of Mom's birthday, Uncle Jimmy told hilarious jokes for a whole hour.
10. Helga's cousin from New Orleans waited in the living room.
11. The cost of the new bridge went beyond the previous estimate.
12. The skateboard was too expensive for Li.
13. Before an evening of relaxation, Erin likes jogging for an hour.
14. That boy with a broken leg had been injured during a soccer game.
15. On the beach of the tiny island, the castaways constructed a hut of leaves and grass.