



Prepositions

Sometimes when looking for adjectives and adverbs, the answers to the questions Which?, How?, Why?, When?, and Where? are answered with a group of words instead of single words. When this happens, the group of words acts as an **adjective phrase** if it answers Which?, and an **adverb phrase** if it answers the other questions, and the first word in the phrase is called a **preposition**.

Example: The man in the blue suit walked up the street.
What are the nouns? They are “man”, “suit” and “street”.
Which man? The man in the blue suit. This is an adjective phrase.
The first word is in. This is a preposition.
Did the man do anything? Yes!
What did the man do? He walked.
Where did he walk? Up the street. This is an adverb phrase.
The first word is up. This is a preposition.

There can be more than one phrase to describe a noun or a verb. It is a good idea to check phrases to make sure there is only one noun. This noun should be the last word in the phrase.

Example: A car on the street with worn tires skidded to a stop at the corner.
What are the nouns? They are “car”, “street”, “tires”, “stop” and “corner”.
Which car? The car on the street. The car with worn tires. There are both adjective phrases.
The first words are on and with. They are prepositions.
Did the man do anything? Yes!
What did the car do? It skidded.
How did it skid? To a stop. This is an adverb phrase.
Where did it skid? At the corner. This is also an adverb phrase.
The first words are to and at. They are prepositions.



EXERCISES:

A. Put brackets (around the adjective and adverb phrases) in the sentences. Underline the preposition in each phrase.

Example: The man (in the brown jacket) walked slowly (down the street.)

- 1) Five boys from this college are running in the race.
- 2) A little dog crawled under the gate and ran into the empty house.
- 3) The racing car went off the road, through a fence and into a farmer's field.
- 4) Twenty members of the team won medals at the games.
- 5) Among the trees in the jungle there are monkeys walking along the branches.
- 6) A new sign with large print was placed over the door at the entrance to the office.
- 7) After the meeting the waiters were given fifteen minutes of break time.

SOLUTIONS

- A. 1) (from this college), (in the race) 2) (under the gate), (into the empty house)
3) (off the road), (through a fence), (into a farmer's field)
4) (of the team), (at the games)
5) (Among the trees), (in the jungle), (along the branches)
6) (with large print), (over the door), (at the entrance), (to the office)
7) (After the meeting), (of break time)

