

Prepositional Phrases – Outline Notes

How does a Prepositional Phrase relate to the rest of the sentence?

- A **prepositional phrase** begins with a **preposition** and ends with an **object**.
- A **prepositional phrase** is always related to another word in a sentence. It modifies the word in the same way an adjective or adverb does.

What is an Adjective Phrase?

An **adjective phrase** is a prepositional phrase that modifies a noun or a pronoun. It can tell *which one*, *how many*, or *what kind*.

Example:

- The capital of the United States is Washington, D.C. (The phrase *of the United States* modifies the noun *capital*.)

What is an Adverb Phrase?

An **adverb phrase** is a prepositional phrase that modifies a verb, an adjective, or another adverb. It usually tells *where*, *when*, *how*, *why*, or *to what extent*.

Examples:

- **Modifying a verb** Many Americans travel in the summer. (The phrase *in the summer* modifies the verb *travel* telling *when*.)
- **Modifying an adjective** New York City is remarkable for its public buildings. (The phrase *for its public buildings* modifies the adjective *remarkable*.)
- **Modifying an adverb** The street system works well for such an old plan. (The phrase *for such an old plan* modifies the adverb *well*.)

Placement of Prepositional Phrases

Place the prepositional phrase close to the word it modifies, so you don't confuse your readers.

- **Confusing** Excited tourists walk down the mall with ice cream bars.
- **Better** Excited tourists with ice cream bars walk down the mall.