



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.