Phrase or Joiner?

Sort the bold words, then explain your choices.

4.LF.38.b "Form and use prepositional phrases and conjunctions."

NAME _____ DATE _____

PREPOSITIONAL PHRASE

A prepositional phrase begins with a word such as above or beyond. It can tell where or when something happens.

Beyond tall cliffs, eagles soar.

CONJUNCTION

A conjunction joins words or parts of a sentence.

Nora smiled, **yet** Leo frowned.

1 SORT

8 items

For each bold part, circle PHRASE or JOINER, then choose two numbered items and explain how you knew.

1. The kitten slept **under the bench**. PHRASE JOINER
2. **Before sunrise**, the crew left. PHRASE JOINER
3. Tara brought markers **and** paper. PHRASE JOINER
4. Dad hung a coat **near the door**. PHRASE JOINER
5. We stayed inside **because** rain fell. PHRASE JOINER
6. Our team practiced **although** it was cold. PHRASE JOINER
7. Mina will draw **or** paint. PHRASE JOINER
8. The frog hopped **across the path**. PHRASE JOINER

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new sentence with a prepositional phrase and one new sentence with a conjunction.

PHRASE _____

JOINER _____

CHALLENGE

Write one sentence that uses both a prepositional phrase and a conjunction, then name each one.

ANSWER KEY

Phrase or Joiner?

GRADE 4 · 4.LF.38.b

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The kitten slept **under the bench**.	**PHRASE**	Under the bench is a prepositional phrase that tells where the kitten slept.
2	**Before sunrise**, the crew left.	**PHRASE**	Before sunrise is a prepositional phrase that tells when the crew left.
3	Tara brought markers **and** paper.	**JOINER**	And joins markers and paper.
4	Dad hung a coat **near the door**.	**PHRASE**	Near the door is a prepositional phrase that tells where Dad hung the coat.
5	We stayed inside **because** rain fell.	**JOINER**	Because joins the action to its reason.
6	Our team practiced **although** it was cold.	**JOINER**	Although joins two parts of the sentence.
7	Mina will draw **or** paint.	**JOINER**	Or joins two choices.
8	The frog hopped **across the path**.	**PHRASE**	Across the path is a prepositional phrase that tells where the frog hopped.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **PHRASE**: Birds gathered beside the fountain.
- **JOINER**: I wanted to run, but my ankle hurt.

Challenge: After school, Eli reads and Bea sketches. Prepositional phrase: After school. Conjunction: and.

For Part 2, each explanation should identify what the bold part does. For example, item 2 tells when the crew left, while item 7 joins two choices.