

Phrase Detectives

Find the groups of words that begin with a preposition.

4.L.GC.1.27 "Grammar: Form and use prepositional phrases. (Master)"

NAME _____

DATE _____

PREPOSITIONAL PHRASE

A prepositional phrase begins with a preposition and ends with a noun or pronoun. It can tell where, when, or how something happens.

under a silver blanket

NOT A PREPOSITIONAL PHRASE

This group of words does not begin with a preposition followed by a noun or pronoun.

laughed loudly

1 SORT _____ 8 items

Circle YES or NO for each group of words, then pick two items and explain why each belongs in its category.

1. beside the tall fence YES NO

2. during the storm YES NO

3. the tall fence YES NO

4. from my backpack YES NO

5. ran quickly YES NO

6. my backpack YES NO

7. across the muddy field YES NO

8. before lunch YES NO

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 YES example and one new NO example.

YES _____

NO _____

CHALLENGE

Write a complete sentence that uses a new prepositional phrase.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	beside the tall fence	YES	It begins with the preposition beside and ends with the noun fence.
2	during the storm	YES	It begins with the preposition during and ends with the noun storm.
3	the tall fence	NO	It is a noun phrase and does not begin with a preposition.
4	from my backpack	YES	It begins with the preposition from and ends with the noun backpack.
5	ran quickly	NO	It is a verb phrase, not a preposition followed by a noun or pronoun.
6	my backpack	NO	It is a noun phrase and does not begin with a preposition.
7	across the muddy field	YES	It begins with the preposition across and ends with the noun field.
8	before lunch	YES	It begins with the preposition before and ends with the noun lunch.

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)

- **YES:** behind the red curtain
- **NO:** sang softly

Challenge: The puppy slept beside the sofa.

For Part 2, student explanations should name the preposition and the noun or pronoun that follows it for YES items. Accept varied Part 3 answers if the YES example begins with a preposition and has a noun or pronoun object.