# 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.

**ANSWER KEY**

# Phrase Detectives

**GRADE 4 · 4.L.GC.1.27**

## 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.