Phrase Detectives

What does the bold phrase describe?

12.5.R.2 "Students will recognize noun, verb, adjectival, and adverbial phrases and explain their effect in particular sentences."

NAME _____ DATE _____

ADJECTIVAL PHRASE

This prepositional phrase describes a noun or pronoun. It tells which one or what kind.

Lanterns **above doorways** flickered.

ADVERBIAL PHRASE

This prepositional phrase describes an action. It tells when, where, or how the action happens.

Violinists practiced **before sunrise**.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle ADJECTIVE or ADVERB for each bold phrase, then choose two items and explain what each phrase describes and what detail it adds.

1. The letter **from the museum** arrived yesterday. ADJECTIVE ADVERB
2. The hikers rested **near the creek**. ADJECTIVE ADVERB
3. The panel voted **during the recess**. ADJECTIVE ADVERB
4. A scarf **of blue silk** covered the statue. ADJECTIVE ADVERB
5. Our neighbor **with a red bicycle** opened the gate. ADJECTIVE ADVERB
6. The photographer waited **until noon**. ADJECTIVE ADVERB
7. The key **under the cushion** belonged to Maya. ADJECTIVE ADVERB
8. The portrait **in the attic** had a cracked frame. ADJECTIVE ADVERB

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 two original sentences, one with an adjectival prepositional phrase and one with an adverbial prepositional phrase; bold the phrase in each sentence.

ADJECTIVE _____

ADVERB _____

CHALLENGE

Write one sentence with both kinds of prepositional phrase, bold each phrase, and explain which word each modifies.

ANSWER KEY

Phrase Detectives

GRADE 12 · 12.5.R.2

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The letter **from the museum** arrived yesterday.	**ADJECTIVE**	The phrase describes letter and identifies which letter.
2	The hikers rested **near the creek**.	**ADVERB**	The phrase tells where the hikers rested.
3	The panel voted **during the recess**.	**ADVERB**	The phrase tells when the panel voted.
4	A scarf **of blue silk** covered the statue.	**ADJECTIVE**	The phrase describes what kind of scarf it was.
5	Our neighbor **with a red bicycle** opened the gate.	**ADJECTIVE**	The phrase identifies which neighbor opened the gate.
6	The photographer waited **until noon**.	**ADVERB**	The phrase tells when the waiting ended.
7	The key **under the cushion** belonged to Maya.	**ADJECTIVE**	The phrase identifies which key belonged to Maya.
8	The portrait **in the attic** had a cracked frame.	**ADJECTIVE**	The phrase identifies which portrait had a cracked frame.

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)

- **ADJECTIVE**: The notebook **on the windowsill** belongs to Imani.
- **ADVERB**: The dancers rehearsed **after school**.

Challenge: The scientist **with silver glasses** spoke **after lunch**. The first phrase describes scientist; the second tells when the scientist spoke.

For Part 2, an explanation should identify the word a phrase modifies and the detail it adds. For example, item 1 identifies which letter, while item 3 tells when the panel voted.