Phrase Detectives

Find what each phrase adds to the story.

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

NAME _____ DATE _____

ADJECTIVAL PHRASE

In this sort, an adjectival prepositional phrase adds detail to a noun. It helps you tell which one or what kind.

The lantern **with a cracked pane** flickered.

ADVERBIAL PHRASE

In this sort, an adverbial prepositional phrase adds detail to a verb. It tells when, where, or how an action happens.

The acrobat balanced **during rehearsal**.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle ADJECTIVAL or ADVERBIAL for each bold phrase, then choose one item from each category and explain which word the phrase describes and what detail it adds.

1. The letter **with a blue seal** lay unopened. ADJECTIVAL ADVERBIAL
2. A student **from another school** recognized the handwriting. ADJECTIVAL ADVERBIAL
3. **Before sunrise**, Mina opened the envelope. ADJECTIVAL ADVERBIAL
4. The map **inside the envelope** showed a hidden passage. ADJECTIVAL ADVERBIAL
5. Mina waited **near the fountain**. ADJECTIVAL ADVERBIAL
6. **After the storm**, they followed the map. ADJECTIVAL ADVERBIAL
7. The door **beneath the stairs** was painted green. ADJECTIVAL ADVERBIAL
8. The key **with a brass handle** fit the lock. ADJECTIVAL ADVERBIAL

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Choose one item from each category and explain which word the phrase describes and what detail it adds.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one sentence with an adjectival prepositional phrase and one with an adverbial prepositional phrase that describes a verb; bold each phrase.

ADJECTIVAL _____

ADVERBIAL _____

CHALLENGE

Write one sentence with both kinds of prepositional phrase; bold and label each phrase, then explain what each one adds.

ANSWER KEY # Phrase Detectives

GRADE 10 · 10.5.R.2

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The letter **with a blue seal** lay unopened.	**ADJECTIVAL**	The phrase identifies which letter.
2	A student **from another school** recognized the handwriting.	**ADJECTIVAL**	The phrase describes the student.
3	**Before sunrise**, Mina opened the envelope.	**ADVERBIAL**	The phrase tells when Mina opened the envelope.
4	The map **inside the envelope** showed a hidden passage.	**ADJECTIVAL**	The phrase identifies which map.
5	Mina waited **near the fountain**.	**ADVERBIAL**	The phrase tells where Mina waited.
6	**After the storm**, they followed the map.	**ADVERBIAL**	The phrase tells when they followed the map.
7	The door **beneath the stairs** was painted green.	**ADJECTIVAL**	The phrase identifies which door.
8	The key **with a brass handle** fit the lock.	**ADJECTIVAL**	The phrase describes the key.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Task: Choose one item from each category and explain which word the phrase describes and what detail it adds.
Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **ADJECTIVAL**: The bicycle **with a bent wheel** rested against the fence.
- **ADVERBIAL**: We gathered **beside the pier**.

Challenge: The bell **on the tower** rang **through the valley**. ADJECTIVAL: "On the tower" identifies the bell. ADVERBIAL: "Through the valley" tells where the ringing traveled.

For Part 2, item 1 describes "letter" and identifies which letter, while item 3 describes "opened" and tells when the action happened. Accept other explanations that identify the noun or verb described and state the detail added.