Phrase Detective

Find what each phrase adds to the sentence.

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

NAME _____ DATE _____

ADJECTIVAL PHRASE

An adjectival phrase describes a noun by identifying it or adding detail. Adjectival phrases can also describe pronouns, but the ones on this sheet describe nouns.

The necklace of amber beads vanished.

ADVERBIAL PHRASE

An adverbial phrase can tell when, where, or how a verb's action happens. Adverbial phrases can also modify adjectives or other adverbs, but the ones on this sheet modify verbs.

Iris spoke after the ceremony.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle the category of each underlined phrase; for Part 2, choose one item from each category and explain which noun or verb its phrase modifies and how you know.

1. The memoir about an Arctic voyage won an award. ADJECTIVAL ADVERBIAL

2. The witness with a distinct accent identified the driver. ADJECTIVAL ADVERBIAL

3. The conductor paused before the final note. ADJECTIVAL ADVERBIAL

4. The mural with cobalt swirls covered the wall. ADJECTIVAL ADVERBIAL

5. The audience gasped during the blackout. ADJECTIVAL ADVERBIAL

6. The courier hurried through the crowded station. ADJECTIVAL ADVERBIAL

7. The report on coastal erosion changed the policy. ADJECTIVAL ADVERBIAL

8. The engineer worked until sunrise. ADJECTIVAL ADVERBIAL

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Choose one item from each category and explain which noun or verb its phrase modifies and how you know.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write two original sentences: one with an underlined adjectival phrase describing a noun and one with an underlined adverbial phrase modifying a verb; label each phrase.

ADJECTIVAL _____

ADVERBIAL _____

CHALLENGE

Write one sentence with both kinds of phrases, underline each phrase, then label each one and name the noun or verb it modifies.

ANSWER KEY # Phrase Detective

GRADE 11 · 11.5.R.2

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The memoir about an Arctic voyage won an award.	**ADJECTIVAL**	The phrase identifies which memoir won an award.
2	The witness with a distinct accent identified the driver.	**ADJECTIVAL**	The phrase describes the witness.
3	The conductor paused before the final note.	**ADVERBIAL**	The phrase tells when the conductor paused.
4	The mural with cobalt swirls covered the wall.	**ADJECTIVAL**	The phrase describes the mural.
5	The audience gasped during the blackout.	**ADVERBIAL**	The phrase tells when the audience gasped.
6	The courier hurried through the crowded station.	**ADVERBIAL**	The phrase tells where the courier hurried.
7	The report on coastal erosion changed the policy.	**ADJECTIVAL**	The phrase identifies which report changed the policy.
8	The engineer worked until sunrise.	**ADVERBIAL**	The phrase tells how long the engineer worked.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Task: Choose one item from each category and explain which noun or verb its phrase modifies and how you know.

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 sculpture of a seabird drew a crowd.
- **ADVERBIAL**: Lena rehearsed until dusk.

Challenge: The cartographer with a missing tooth navigated through the canyon. ADJECTIVAL: "with a missing tooth" describes "cartographer." ADVERBIAL: "through the canyon" tells where "navigated" happened.

For Part 2, accept explanations that identify the word modified and show how the phrase adds detail. For example, item 2 describes the witness, while item 6 tells where the courier hurried.