Phrase Detective

Sort phrases by the details they add.

9.5.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 adds detail to a noun. Ask which noun the phrase describes.

The lantern **beside the well** flickered.

ADVERBIAL PHRASE

In this sort, an adverbial phrase adds detail to an action, such as when or where it happens. Adverbial phrases can also modify adjectives, other adverbs, or a whole clause.

Mara whispered **during the concert**.

1 SORT

8 items

For each numbered sentence, circle ADJECTIVE or ADVERB for the bold phrase, then choose two items and explain what each phrase describes and what detail it adds.

1. The note **under the bench** held a clue. ADJECTIVE ADVERB
2. A trail **through the orchard** led uphill. ADJECTIVE ADVERB
3. The team practiced **after lunch**. ADJECTIVE ADVERB
4. The mural **above the doorway** showed a whale. ADJECTIVE ADVERB
5. The actor stepped **onto the stage**. ADJECTIVE ADVERB
6. The rover rolled **across the desert**. ADJECTIVE ADVERB
7. The box **with blue ribbons** was empty. ADJECTIVE ADVERB
8. A photo **of the glacier** faded. 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 one new sentence with an adjectival prepositional phrase and one with an adverbial prepositional phrase; underline each phrase.

ADJECTIVE _____

ADVERB _____

CHALLENGE

Write one sentence with both kinds of prepositional phrase, underline each phrase, and explain what each phrase describes and adds.

ANSWER KEY # Phrase Detective

GRADE 9 · 9.5.R.2

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The note **under the bench** held a clue.	**ADJECTIVE**	Describes the noun note by identifying its location.
2	A trail **through the orchard** led uphill.	**ADJECTIVE**	Describes the noun trail by showing its route.
3	The team practiced **after lunch**.	**ADVERB**	Modifies practiced by telling when the action happened.
4	The mural **above the doorway** showed a whale.	**ADJECTIVE**	Describes the noun mural by identifying its location.
5	The actor stepped **onto the stage**.	**ADVERB**	Modifies stepped by showing where the actor moved.
6	The rover rolled **across the desert**.	**ADVERB**	Modifies rolled by showing the path of the action.
7	The box **with blue ribbons** was empty.	**ADJECTIVE**	Describes the noun box by identifying its decoration.
8	A photo **of the glacier** faded.	**ADJECTIVE**	Describes the noun photo by identifying its subject.

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 bicycle near the fence needs a new tire.
- **ADVERB**: We searched before sunrise.

Challenge: The map inside the drawer slipped onto the floor. "Inside the drawer" describes the map and identifies its location; "onto the floor" describes where it slipped.

For Part 2, accept any two items if the student identifies the noun or action each bold phrase describes and explains the detail it adds. Part 3 answers may vary, but each underlined phrase must be prepositional and serve the requested function.