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12.1 Prepositional Phrases

Key Information

A **prepositional phrase** is a group of words that begins with a preposition and usually ends with a noun or pronoun, called the **object of the preposition**.

I left **before halftime**. [*Halftime* is the object of the preposition *before*.]

Prepositions may have more than one object.

We stopped **at the supermarket and the mall**.

A prepositional phrase can act as an adjective or adverb.

The man **on the cover** is a professional model. [adjective phrase modifying *man*]

The model has appeared **in many magazines**. [adverb phrase modifying *has appeared*]

■ A. Identifying Prepositional Phrases

Underline the prepositional phrases in the following sentences.

- Langston Hughes was a major poet of the Harlem Renaissance.
- Hughes stood out because he tried to incorporate jazz rhythms into his poems.
- Beneath its formal surface, his best poetry is filled with life and emotion.
- Over the years many poets have used the poetry of Langston Hughes as a model.

■ B. Identifying Prepositional Phrases and Their Functions

Underline the prepositional phrase in each of the following sentences. Then write whether each phrase is acting as an *adjective* or *adverb*.

- Pablo Neruda, the great Chilean poet, died in 1973. _____
- He wrote beautiful poems for both adults and children. _____
- He wrote about the lonely, haunting, and remote Chilean countryside.

- Neruda's poetry urges a return to simpler things. _____
- The superior quality of his poetry earned him a Nobel Prize. _____

■ C. Using Prepositional Phrases

Use each of the following nouns or noun phrases in a sentence. Make each noun or phrase the object of a preposition.

- (*her aunt*) _____

- (*the restaurant*) _____

- (*Indianapolis*) _____

- (*the tornado*) _____

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12.2 Appositives and Appositive Phrases

Key Information	
An appositive is a noun or pronoun next to another noun or pronoun that identifies or gives additional information about it. Our dog Buck likes to sleep next to the door.	An appositive phrase is an appositive plus any words that modify it. The car, a shiny, red convertible , sped past. As in the sentence above, appositive phrases that are not essential to the meaning of the sentence should be set off by commas.

A. Identifying Appositives and Appositive Phrases

Underline the appositive phrases in the following sentences once. Underline the appositives themselves twice.

1. The jade plant, a popular houseplant, is a hardy and adaptable succulent.
2. Gil's sister-in-law Marjorie is an attorney.
3. We enjoyed visiting Williamsport, a colonial village.
4. The actor Harrison Ford has starred in several action films.
5. Compact discs now have a new music rival, digital audio tapes.
6. Melanie's boss, Ms. Green, allowed her to report to work late during track season.

B. Using Appositives and Appositive Phrases

Rewrite each of the following sentences, using the group of words in parentheses as an appositive phrase. If the phrase is not essential to the meaning of the sentence, set it off with commas.

1. James Joyce is considered one of the great writers of the English language. (a twentieth-century novelist)

2. He wrote three novels, all of them set in Ireland. (the country of his birth)

3. The action in his novel takes place during one day in Dublin. (*Ulysses*)

4. The day is celebrated by some as Bloomsday. (June 16)

5. Bloomsday is named for Leopold and Molly Bloom. (the novel's central characters)

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12.3 Participles and Participial Phrases

Key Information

<p>A participle is a verb form that can function as an adjective.</p> <p>The dripping faucet kept us awake all night. [<i>dripping</i> modifies the noun <i>faucet</i>]</p> <p>Present participles always end in <i>-ing</i>. Past participles often end in <i>-ed</i> but can take other forms as well.</p> <p>The motorcycle's roaring engine shook the windows.</p> <p>The muted notes came from a hidden speaker.</p>	<p>A participial phrase contains a participle plus any complements and modifiers.</p> <p>Running at great speed, the deer escaped the wolf. [phrase modifies noun <i>deer</i>]</p> <p>Chris, smelling smoke from the basement, called the fire department. [phrase modifies noun <i>Chris</i>]</p> <p>The photographer, determined to get a picture of the comet, stayed awake all night. [phrase modifies noun <i>photographer</i>]</p>
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A. Identifying Participles and Participial Phrases

Underline the participles and participial phrases in the following sentences. Then circle the word each phrase modifies.

1. People looking for a word's exact definition should consult a dictionary.
2. Elated with his grade report, Maurice sprinted home to tell his parents.
3. The wolverine, cornered by the bear, hissed and snapped its teeth.
4. The painting hanging in the hall is an original Picasso.
5. Frustrated, the inexperienced golfer threw his putter into the lake.

B. Using Verbs and Participles

Write two sentences using each of the following words. In the first sentence use the word as the main verb. In the second sentence use the word as a participle.

Example: walking

- a. I was walking home when the rain began. (verb)
- b. Walking home in the rain without an umbrella, I got drenched. (participle)

1. shaking
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
2. painted
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
3. leaping
 - a. _____
 - b. _____

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12.3 Gerunds and Gerund Phrases

Key Information

<p>A gerund is a verb form that ends in <i>-ing</i> and is used in the same way a noun is used.</p> <p>Walking is an effective and safe exercise. [gerund as subject]</p> <p>My wife hates my singing. [gerund as direct object]</p> <p>She has not thought about running. [gerund as object of a preposition]</p>	<p>A gerund phrase is a gerund plus any complement and modifiers.</p> <p>Bill's secret for good pies was putting the dough in the freezer for an hour. [gerund phrase as predicate nominative]</p> <p>Be careful not to confuse gerunds with present participles. Both end in <i>-ing</i>, but a present participle is used as an adjective, whereas a gerund is used as a noun. A gerund phrase can usually be replaced by the word <i>it</i>.</p>
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A. Identifying Gerunds and Gerund Phrases

Underline the gerunds and gerund phrases in the following sentences.

1. Yves Saint-Laurent's business, designing fashionable clothing, became popular in the sixties.
2. His brilliant capacity for setting new fashion standards helped him rise quickly.
3. Admirers have noted his preference for combining the stylish with the unusual.
4. Actually, with all his talents, succeeding was relatively simple for Saint-Laurent.

B. Using Participles and Gerunds

Write two sentences using each of the following words. In the first sentence use the word as a participle. In the second sentence use the word as a gerund.

Example: walking

- a. Walking home in the rain without an umbrella, I became drenched. (participle)
- b. Walking home in the rain without an umbrella is a good way to become drenched. (gerund)

1. cleaning
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
2. driving
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
3. shining
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
4. placing
 - a. _____
 - b. _____

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