

Teacher Notes



Prepositional Phrases

Activity 1 Identifying and Using Prepositional Phrases

Activity at a Glance

- ◆ **Subject:** English/Language Arts
- ◆ **Subject Area:** American Literature
- ◆ **Category:** Literary Devices
- ◆ **Topic:** Prepositional Phrases
- ◆ **Grade Level:** 8 - 12
- ◆ **Prerequisites:** Students should understand and be able to identify nouns, pronouns, adjectives, adverbs, and prepositions in a sentence.
- ◆ **Total Teaching Time:** 60 minutes

Materials

- ◆ TI-83 Plus
- ◆ NoteFolio™ application installed on each student's TI-83 Plus
- ◆ TI External Keyboard (optional)
- ◆ TI Connectivity cable or TI-Navigator™ classroom network
- ◆ NoteFolio™ Creator installed on classroom computer (optional)
- ◆ Overhead Projector or a projector connected to the teacher's computer
- ◆ Student resource file: **EXPPREP.8xv**
- ◆ Student Work Sheet: **Prepositional Phrases Example Quotations**
- ◆ Teacher Guide Overheads: **Exploring Prepositional Phrases**

Activity Overview

In this activity, students will find examples of prepositional phrases in given excerpts of text and indicate the purpose that the phrases serve in the example.

Directions

Before the Activity Begins

Distribute the NoteFolio™ file, **EXPPREP.8xv**, to the students. Prepare the overhead foils of the Teacher Guide pages and then determine if you will make

copies of the student handout or make this handout into an overhead transparency.

During the Activity

Begin the class period by showing and leading a discussion about the first overhead transparency that defines prepositional phrases. For most students, this will be a review of the term and listing of the most common prepositions and prepositional phrases used in language. When you are sure that the students have a clear understanding of the meaning, proceed to the second overhead transparency that presents examples of usage. Review each of these with the students to ensure comprehension.

Distribute the student handout page of excerpts (or show this page on the overhead projector if you have made a foil of it.) Explain that the students' task is to find examples of prepositional phrases used in each excerpt. Students are to identify the word or phrase the prepositional phrases modify. Demonstrate how to find and think about the way that the prepositional phrases works as a modifier using the following example:

Excerpt: From Sarah Orne Jewitt's "A White Heron": "'Afraid of Folks,'"

"... old Mrs. Tilley said to herself, with a smile, after she had made the unlikely choice of Sylvia from her daughter's houseful of children, and was returning to the farm. 'Afraid of folks,' they-said! I guess she won't be troubled no great with 'em up to the old place!' When they reached the door of the lonely house and stopped to unlock it, and the cat came to purr loudly, and rub against them, a deserted pussy, indeed, but fat with young robins, Sylvia whispered that this was a beautiful place to live in, and she never should wish to go home."

Think Aloud

These sentences use several prepositional phrases. The preposition 'with' begins the prepositional phrase 'with a smile.' This phrase tells how Mrs. Tilley was feeling when she was thinking to herself. The phrase 'of the lonely house' starts with the preposition 'of' and tells which door they reached. The two prepositional phrases work together. If we broke up the sentences, we'd have something like:

The preposition 'to' begins the prepositional phrase 'to herself' in the first sentence. This prepositional phrase indicates that Mrs. Tilley is thinking.' Next, there are two prepositional phrases: 'with a smile' and 'after she had made the unlikely choice.' Together, these phrases tell more about how Tilly was feeling when she was thinking.

Prepositional Phrases and Purpose

The prepositional phrases in this passage help make the meaning more specific and detailed. Without the prepositional phrases, the author's meaning probably wouldn't be clear.

Answer any questions pertaining to the example or the assignment.

Students read the example quotations and locate the prepositional phrases in each example. They look at the context and meaning to determine what the

prepositional phrase modifies in the sentence. They complete their analyses and record their findings in the LearningCheck™ file distributed at the beginning of class. Monitor student progress.

After the Activity

Ten minutes prior to the end of the class period, reconvene the class and debrief the assignment by calling on different students to locate and explain the examples of prepositional phrases that they found in the excerpts. If the students do not finish their work during class, then this exercise can be completed as homework provided that the students have a paper copy of the excerpts to refer to.

Accessing the NoteFolio Application on the TI-83 Plus

Note: NoteFolio™ App is most efficiently used on the TI-83 Plus with the TI Keyboard.

1. Turn on the device and press **[APPS]** to display the list of installed applications. Select the **NoteFolio** Application by using **[▲]** to scroll to it in the list.



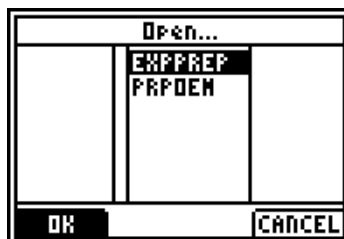
2. Press **[ENTER]**. Press any key to clear the NoteFolio™ App Introduction screen. A blank (new) NoteFolio™ App file is initially displayed.



3. To find the **EXPPREP.8xv** file, press the **MENU** key (the **[GRAPH]** key).

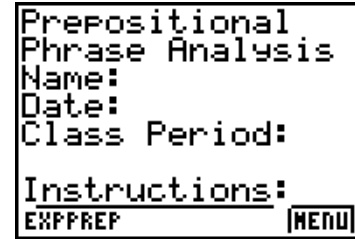


4. Highlight the **Open** option or press **2**. Highlight the **EXPPREP** file.



- Press **ENTER**. The file is opened. Students should complete the assignment.

Note: If you are not using a TI Keyboard, remember to press the **ALPHA** key to type letters.



- When the file is complete, press **MENU**. Students can save the file under the same name by selecting **Save** or they can save the file under a new name by selecting **Save As**.



- When the updated file is saved, press **OK** (the **Y=** key).

To exit the application, press **MENU** and select **6: Exit**.



Student Work Sheet

Name: _____

Prepositional Phrases Example Quotations

Date: _____

From "The Bouquet," by Charles W. Chestnutt

"For a month before Miss Myrover's death Sophy had been watching her rosebush -- the one that bore the yellow roses -- for the first buds of spring, and when these appeared had awaited impatiently their gradual unfolding. But not until her teacher's death had they become full-blown roses. When Miss Myrover died, Sophy determined to pluck the roses and lay them on her coffin. Perhaps, she thought, they might even put them in her hand or on her breast. For Sophy remembered Miss Myrover's thanks and praise when she had brought her the yellow roses the spring before."

From "Daisy Miller," by Henry James

"At the little town of Vevey, in Switzerland, there is a particularly comfortable hotel. There are, indeed, many hotels, for the entertainment of tourists is the business of the place, which, as many travelers will remember, is seated upon the edge of a remarkably blue lake--a lake that it behooves every tourist to visit. The shore of the lake presents an unbroken array of establishments of this order, of every category, from the "grand hotel" of the newest fashion, with a chalk-white front, a hundred balconies, and a dozen flags flying from its roof, to the little Swiss pension of an elder day, with its name inscribed in German-looking lettering upon a pink or yellow wall and an awkward summerhouse in the angle of the garden. One of the hotels at Vevey, however, is famous, even classical, being distinguished from many of its upstart neighbors by an air both of luxury and of maturity. In this region, in the month of June, American travelers are extremely numerous; it may be said, indeed, that Vevey assumes at this period some of the characteristics of an American watering place."

From "Bartleby, the Scrivener" by Herman Melville

"With submission, sir," said Turkey on this occasion, "I consider myself your right-hand man. In the morning I but marshal and deploy my columns; but in the afternoon I put myself at their head, and gallantly charge the foe, thus!"— and he made a violent thrust with the ruler.

From "The Partners," by Charles W. Chesnutt

"Among the human flotsam and jetsam that followed in the wake of the Civil War, there drifted into a certain Southern town, shortly after the surrender, two young colored men, named respectively William Cain and Rufus Green. They had made each other's acquaintance in a refugee camp attached to an army cantonment, and when the soldiers went away, William and Rufus were thrown upon their own resources. They were fast friends, and discussed with each other the subject of their future."

From "The Legend of the Sleepy Hollow," by Washington Irving

"In this by-place of nature there abode, in a remote period of American history, that is to say, some thirty years since, a worthy weight of the name of Ichabod Crane, who sojourned, or, as he expressed it, "tarried," in Sleepy Hollow, for the purpose of instructing the children of the vicinity. He was a native of Connecticut, a State which supplies the Union with pioneers for the mind as well as for the forest, and sends forth yearly its legions of frontier woodmen and country schoolmasters. The cognomen of Crane was not inapplicable to his person. He was tall, but exceedingly lank, with narrow shoulders, long arms and legs, hands that dangled a mile out of his sleeves, feet that might have served for shovels, and his whole frame most loosely hung together. His head was small, and flat at top, with huge ears, large green glassy eyes, and a long snipe nose, so that it looked like a weather-cock perched upon his spindle neck to tell which way the wind blew. To see him striding along the profile of a hill on a windy day, with his clothes bagging and fluttering about him, one might have mistaken him for the genius of famine descending upon the earth, or some scarecrow eloped from a cornfield."

Teacher Guide

Exploring Prepositional Phrases

Prepositional phrases begin with a preposition and end with a noun or noun phrase (the object of the preposition). If a prepositional phrase were an equation, it would look like this:

Preposition	+	Noun Phrase	=	Prepositional Phrase
on	+	the dining room table	=	on the dining room table
under	+	the sea	=	under the sea
according to	+	federal authorities	=	according to federal authorities
but	+	the kitchen sink	=	but the kitchen sink
outside	+	city limits	=	outside city limits

Most prepositions are a single word — such as *below*, *under*, *until*, *to*, or *with*. There are also a number of phrasal or compound prepositions, prepositions that are two or three words long — such as *according to*, *by means of*, or *in lieu of*. Consult this list of common prepositions for more examples:

about	above	across	after	against
along	among	around	at	before
behind	below	beneath	beside	besides
between	beyond	but	by	concerning
considering	despite	down	during	except
for	from	in	inside	into
like	near	next	of	off
on	onto	opposite	out	outside
over	past	plus	regarding	respecting
round	since	than	through	throughout
till	to	toward	under	underneath
unlike	until	unto	up	upon
with	without			
according to	along with	as well as	because of	
by way of	in addition to	in front of	in lieu of	
in place of	in regard to	in spite of	instead of	
next to	on account of	out of	up to	

Object of Preposition

The object of a preposition is the noun phrase that follows the preposition. The object of a preposition can be a noun phrase or a compound noun phrase (two noun words joined by a conjunction such as "and"):

Noun Phrase

The songs **on the radio** were a great background **for the dancers**.

The jeep struggled **up the steep hill**.

Compound Noun Phrase

The brightly colored flowers had been planted **along the fence and sidewalk**.

According to the mayor and her urban planners, the best location for the new school is south of Harding Avenue Soccer Field.

Use of Prepositional Phrases

Prepositional phrases usually work as adjectives or adverbs in a sentence. Here are some examples:

The store **outside city limits** avoided local sales taxes.

Which store? the one outside city limits (adjective)

They drove **outside city limits**.

Where did they drive? outside city limits (adverb)

The house **across the street** is for sale.

Which house? the one across the street (adjective)

Samantha rushed **across the street**.

Where did she rush? across the street (adverb)

Prepositional phrases can also be used as a noun, usually as the subject of a sentence:

After school will work.

Before Tuesday is difficult.

Some preposition words can also be used as adverbs. To tell the difference, see if the word can be removed without confusing the sentence:

The bookstore **inside** the mall was having a sale.

CONFUSING: The bookstore the mall was having a sale

Inside is an preposition with the object *the mall*.

I'll meet you **inside** this afternoon.

CLEAR: I'll meet you this afternoon.

Inside is an adverb, telling where the speaker will meet.