

<b>Topic:</b>	Prepositional phrases
<b>Grade:</b>	3-4
<b>Content:</b>	Students will learn to recognize and use prepositional phrases in writing.
<b>Learning Standard:</b>	<p><a href="#">Common Core State Standard</a></p> <p>L.4.1. Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Form and use prepositional phrases.</li> </ul> <p><a href="http://www.corestandards.org/the-standards/english-language-arts-standards/language-standards-k-5/grade-4/">http://www.corestandards.org/the-standards/english-language-arts-standards/language-standards-k-5/grade-4/</a></p>
<b>Goals:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to teach students to recognize prepositional phrases and use them in their own writing</li> </ul>
<b>Introduction:</b>	<p>First, read some sentences containing prepositional phrases aloud and ask students to think about what they all have in common. Here are some examples:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Margarita and Annie played beside the small creek.</li> <li>2. The puppy was born in the spring.</li> <li>3. I woke up at midnight.</li> <li>4. James and Dexter ran between the goalposts.</li> </ol> <p>Explain that a <b>preposition</b> is a word that shows location in the physical world, or location in time. A <b>prepositional phrase</b> is the combination of:</p> <p><b>preposition + object (noun or pronoun)</b></p> <p>A prepositional phrase can act as an adjective or as an adverb.</p> <p>Examples:</p> <p>on the street before breakfast toward the sound without a blanket</p> <p>Hand out a sheet to each student listing all the common prepositions (below).</p> <p>Have a short discussion in which students come up with their own prepositional phrases by adding creative objects. Write the examples on the board.</p>

	<p>Prompt them with these examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• amid the audience</li> <li>• underneath the table</li> <li>• around the building</li> <li>• near the elevator</li> <li>• beyond the horizon</li> </ul> <p>This site is a good reference for possible prepositional phrases:  <a href="http://www.advanced-english-grammar.com/list-of-prepositional-phrases.html">http://www.advanced-english-grammar.com/list-of-prepositional-phrases.html</a></p> <p>Students will begin to see that coming up with prepositional phrases and adding them to their writing and speech is fun.</p>
<p><b>Activities:</b></p>	<p><b>Prepositional Phrase Charades</b>  Place a very sturdy table, a large room divider, and any other classroom furniture at the front of the room. Explain the students will play Prepositional Phrase Charades. They will take turns acting out a prepositional phrase without speaking, and all their classmates will guess what they are trying to show. Model the game by sitting “on the table,” going “behind the divider,” standing “between chairs,” or crawling “under the desk.” Encourage students to refer to their master list of common prepositions as they play.</p> <p><b>Preposition Treasure Hunt</b>  Divide the class into small groups of three or four students and head to the school library. Explain that everyone is going on a treasure hunt...but instead of hunting gold coins, they’re hunting for prepositions! Give each group a list of five prepositions from the master list. Explain that the groups need to find examples of each of their five prepositions in magazines and books. When they find these preposition treasures, they should mark the page with a slip of loose leaf paper. The first group to find their five wins. If the class completes this treasure hunt too quickly, do it again with ten prepositions per group instead of five.</p> <p><b>Prepositional Phrase Writing Challenge</b>  Have students break into pairs. Each pair will write a story (one to three paragraphs in length) about any topic of their choosing. Their challenge is to include as many prepositional phrases in the story as possible. Encourage them to refer to the master list of common prepositions as they write. Give students 10-15 minutes to complete their stories. Take some time afterwards to have the pairs share what they’ve written. As a class, count the number of prepositional phrases in the story to determine which pair included the most.</p>
<p><b>Practice:</b></p>	<p>Whenever students have quiet reading time, remind them to notice prepositional</p>

	<p>phrases as they are reading. Model noticing prepositional phrases while reading text aloud. Keep a running list on the board for a week or two.</p> <p>Ask students to continue to think about how prepositional phrases make stories and sentences more interesting.</p>
<p><b>Checking:</b></p>	<p>Write some sentence starters on the board and ask each student to pick three and add prepositional phrases to the sentences. Students should write their sentences down on their own paper. Check to make sure everyone's sentence contains a prepositional phrase.</p> <p>Possible starter sentences:</p> <p>The clock is mine. Timothy and Chelsea ran. The cat is sleeping.</p> <p>Alternatively, write several sentences containing prepositional phrases on the board and ask students to take turns coming up and underlining the prepositional phrase.</p> <p>Possible sentences:</p> <p>I spend a lot of time <u>on the Internet</u>. Kayla likes to stare <u>into space</u>. The animals <u>at the zoo</u> are eating. She'll do homework <u>until dinner</u>.</p>

## Handout

Complete list of common prepositions:

about  
above  
across  
after  
against  
around  
at  
before  
behind  
below

beneath  
beside  
besides  
between  
beyond  
by  
down  
during  
except  
for  
from  
in  
inside  
into  
like  
near  
of  
off  
on  
out  
outside  
over  
since  
through  
throughout  
till  
to  
toward  
under  
until  
up  
upon  
with  
without  
according to  
because of  
by way of  
in addition to  
in front of  
in place of  
in regard to  
in spite of  
instead of  
on account of  
out of