

Name _____

Date _____

Prepositional Phrases

Definition

A **prepositional phrase** is a group of words that begins with a preposition and ends with a noun or pronoun (the object). These phrases function as adjectives or adverbs in sentences, showing relationships of time, location, direction, or manner.

Example

Relationship	Example	Function
Place	"The book is on the table."	Shows location
Time	"We will meet after lunch."	Shows when
Direction	"The bird flew across the sky."	Shows movement
Manner	"She spoke with confidence."	Shows how
Purpose	"He studied for the exam."	Shows why

Part 1: Multiple Choice Questions

Identify the prepositional phrase in each sentence and determine whether it functions as an adjective phrase or an adverb phrase.

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1. The African Great Rift Valley extends from Ethiopia to Mozambique along the eastern portion of the continent.

- a) prepositional phrase functioning as an adjective
- b) prepositional phrase functioning as an adverb
- c) not a prepositional phrase
- d) two separate prepositional phrases

2. Volcanic activity in the East African Rift has created numerous mountains and crater lakes.

- a) prepositional phrase functioning as an adjective
- b) prepositional phrase functioning as an adverb
- c) not a prepositional phrase
- d) two separate prepositional phrases

3. The tectonic plates are moving apart at a rate of approximately 2.5 centimeters per year.

- a) prepositional phrase functioning as an adjective
- b) prepositional phrase functioning as an adverb
- c) not a prepositional phrase
- d) two separate prepositional phrases

4. Scientists collect rock samples from the valley floor for laboratory analysis.

- a) both prepositional phrases functioning as adverbs
- b) both prepositional phrases functioning as adjectives
- c) first phrase as adjective, second phrase as adverb
- d) first phrase as adverb, second phrase as adjective

5. The movement of tectonic forces beneath the continental crust causes the rifting process.

- a) both prepositional phrases functioning as adverbs
- b) both prepositional phrases functioning as adjectives
- c) first phrase as adjective, second phrase as adverb
- d) first phrase as adverb, second phrase as adjective

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Part 2: Fill in the Blank

Complete each sentence with an appropriate prepositional phrase that functions as specified.

1. Lake Turkana, located _____
(prepositional phrase as adverb of place), is one of the largest alkaline lakes in the Great Rift Valley.
2. Fossils discovered _____ (prepositional phrase as adverb of place) provide evidence of early human ancestors.
3. The escarpments _____ (prepositional phrase as adjective) reach heights of over 2,000 meters in some places.
4. _____ (prepositional phrase as adverb of time), geologists predict the rift will eventually form a new ocean basin.
5. The Great Rift Valley formed _____
(prepositional phrase as adverb of manner), creating diverse ecosystems across eastern Africa.

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Prepositional Phrases – Answer Key

Part 1: Multiple Choice Questions

1. b) prepositional phrase functioning as an adverb (tells where the valley extends)
2. a) prepositional phrase functioning as an adjective (describes which volcanic activity)
3. b) prepositional phrase functioning as an adverb (tells how/at what rate the plates are moving)
4. c) first phrase as adjective (describes which rock samples), second phrase as adverb (tells why/purpose they collect them)
5. b) both prepositional phrases functioning as adjectives (both describe "movement" - which movement and where it occurs)

Part 2: Fill in the Blank

Possible answers:

1. (adverb of place): in northern Kenya / at the border of Ethiopia and Kenya / within the northern section of the rift
2. (adverb of place): in Olduvai Gorge / among ancient sedimentary layers / beneath volcanic ash deposits
3. (adjective): along the rift margins / of the Great Rift Valley / on both sides of the rift
4. (adverb of time): In millions of years / Over geological time / Within the next 50 million years
5. (adverb of manner): through tectonic plate divergence / with dramatic geological forces / by stretching and thinning of continental crust