

Prepositional Phrases Used as Adjectives and Adverbs

A prepositional phrase that modifies a noun or pronoun is functioning as an **adjective phrase**. Remember that adjectives tell *what kind, how many, or which one*.

A prepositional phrase that modifies a verb, adjective, or another adverb is functioning as an **adverb phrase**. Remember that adverbs tell *how, when, where, how often, and to what extent*.

Examples:

The whale *with the unusual markings* is our favorite.
(adjective phrase; tells which whale)

The whales in the water park show performed *with ease*.
(adverb phrase; tells how)



Underline the adjective phrase in each sentence. Write the word it modifies.

1. Horseshoe crabs resemble hard hats with long tails. _____
2. They are close relatives of spiders. _____
3. The mouth of the horseshoe crab is well hidden. _____
4. It is an opening underneath the crab's body. _____



Underline the adverb phrase in each sentence. Write the word(s) it modifies.

5. Whales are the largest mammals that live on the Earth. _____
6. Whales behave with great intelligence. _____
7. A whale must breathe air through its lungs. _____
8. Whales can dive for long periods. _____



Underline each prepositional phrase. Then, circle ADJ for adjective phrases or ADV for adverb phrases.

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|--|-----|-----|
| 9. One rock sample from the moon is 4,720 million years old. | ADJ | ADV |
| 10. The rock was collected by the Apollo space mission. | ADJ | ADV |
| 11. The daytime temperature on the lunar equator is 243°F. | ADJ | ADV |
| 12. A black hole is formed by a star's complete collapse. | ADJ | ADV |
| 13. About 150 meteorites from space pound the Earth each year. | ADJ | ADV |
| 14. An Alaskan, Mrs. E. H. Hodges, is the only person hurt by a falling meteorite. | ADJ | ADV |

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Answer Key

1. with long tails; hats
2. of spiders; relatives
3. of the horseshoe crab; mouth
4. underneath the crab's body; opening
5. on the earth; live
6. with great intelligence; behave
7. through its lungs; must breathe
8. for long periods; can dive
9. from the moon; ADJ
10. by the Apollo space mission; ADV
11. on the lunar equator; ADJ
12. by a star's complete collapse; ADV
13. from space; ADJ
14. by a falling meteorite; ADV



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