Prepositional Phrases

Objectives

In this mini-lesson, students will:
• Identify prepositional phrases in sentences.
• Identify prepositions and objects of prepositions.
• Write sentences using prepositional phrases.

Preparation

Materials Needed
• Chart paper and markers
• Prepositional Phrases (BLM 6)
• Interactive whiteboard resources

Advanced Preparation
If you will not be using the interactive whiteboard resources, copy the modeling text and the practice text (without the underlining) onto chart paper prior to the mini-lesson. If necessary, write the sentence frames from “Strategies to Support ELs” on chart paper to use with ELs.

1. Focus

Explain Prepositional Phrases

Say: Listen to this sentence: “A team of Canadian chemists stare at the milky white liquid.” In this sentence, the phrase of Canadian chemists tells which team. The phrase at the milky white liquid tells what they chemists stare at. We call these prepositional phrases. A prepositional phrase includes a preposition and a noun or pronoun called the object of the preposition. In the prepositional phrase of Canadian chemists, the word of is the preposition and the word chemists is known as the object of the preposition. The object of a preposition will be a noun. In the phrase at the milky white liquid, the word at is the preposition and the word liquid is the object of the preposition. Prepositions usually tell us where things happen, when things happen, and what things are being described. Writers of research reports use prepositional phrases often to specify information and provide details about their topics.

Model Identifying Prepositional Phrases

Display the modeling text on chart paper or using the interactive whiteboard resources.

1. A member of the team uses tweezers to pull the thread out.
2. The scientists have combined the genes of two creatures.

Modeling Text

Read sentence 1. Say: In this sentence, I see the prepositional phrase of the team. The prepositional phrase tells what kind of member this person is. The preposition is the word of. The object of the preposition is the word team.

Read sentence 2. Say: In this sentence, the phrase of two creatures specifies the kind of genes the writer tells about. The preposition is the word of. The object of the preposition is the word creatures. Writers use prepositions and prepositional phrases such as these to make details clear when they write research reports.
2. Rehearse

Practice Identifying Prepositional Phrases

Display the practice text (without the underlining) on chart paper or using the interactive whiteboard resources. Ask students to work with partners to identify the prepositional phrase or phrases in each sentence. Ask them to think about the purpose of each preposition in the sentences. (Students do not need to copy sentences.)

1. The thread is the kind made from a spider’s glands.
2. Silk shimmered in the sun.
3. In the past, leaders of armies gave silk to their soldiers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Practice Text</th>
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3. Independent Writing and Conferring

Say: We learned that phrases starting with prepositions are helpful in providing details. For example, they describe where something is, when something took place, and what kind of thing something is. Prepositions are important in research reports because they help specify details about a topic. We will need to use prepositional phrases when we write research reports.

If you would like to give students additional practice with prepositional phrases, have them complete BLM 6.

4. Share

Review and provide corrective feedback based on students’ answers to BLM 6. Ask students to share what they learned about using prepositional phrases in sentences.

Strategies to Support ELs

Beginning

Practice the prepositions under and on with students. Place an object under a desk and tell its location, using the preposition. For example, say: The notebook is under the desk. (Put the object on top of the desk and tell its new position.) The notebook is on the desk. Put the object under or on other things and encourage students to use the following sentence frames with you to describe its positions:

- The [object] is under ______.
- The [object] is on ______.

Intermediate and Advanced

Pair students with fluent English speakers to complete the “Practice Identifying Prepositional Phrases” activity and the BLM. Model and write the following sentence frames on chart paper to help students talk about prepositional phrases and their parts:

- The phrase is ______.
- The preposition is ______.
- The object of the preposition is ______.