Multiple Prepositional Phrases

1. Focus

Explain Multiple Prepositional Phrases

Say: Prepositions are words that help writers specify information. They often show where something is, who or what something is, or when something happens. A prepositional phrase begins with a preposition and then includes other words to tell about the object of the preposition. Some sentences contain multiple prepositional phrases. Research report writers need to be able to use multiple prepositions in sentences to help them specify details, such as where or when something happens.

Model Using Multiple Prepositional Phrases

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

Modeling Text

1. Their van is descending southward on a side road of the highway in northern Pakistan.
2. Can the rest of the world learn valuable lessons from them?
3. They will feel like they have traveled back into the past to this foreign land.

Objectives

In this mini-lesson, students will:

• Identify multiple prepositional phrases in sentences.
• Learn how prepositional phrases specify information.

Preparation

Materials Needed

• Chart paper and markers
• Multiple Prepositional Phrases (BLM 8)
• 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.

Read sentence 1. Say: I see three prepositional phrases in this sentence. In the phrase on a side road, the preposition is the word on and its object is the word road. The phrases of the highway and in northern Pakistan have a similar structure. Each phrase adds a level of detail about where the van is. By including multiple prepositional phrases in one sentence, the writer is able to provide more information about where the van is.

Read sentence 2. Say: I see two prepositional phrases here. The words of and from are the prepositions in these phrases. The phrase of the world tells me who can learn valuable lessons. The phrase from them tells me who the rest of the world can learn valuable lessons from.

Read sentence 3. Say: This sentence also has two prepositional phrases. The first tells me when the people feel they have traveled to—into the past. The second prepositional phrase is to this foreign land. The preposition is to and its object is land. I can see how useful these phrases are for telling who, when, where, or what in a research report.
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 phrases in each sentence. They should also be prepared to tell what kind of information each phrase provides (for example: where something is, what something is, or when something happened).

1. In the Hunza Valley, year-round glaciers provide fresh drinking water to the people.
2. In the modern day, you may find such a fantasy world only high in the mountains.
3. The farmers don’t use pesticides on their crops or preservatives in their food.
4. Can the rest of the world learn from them before they become a thing of the past?

Practice Text

If your class includes English learners or other students who need support, use “Strategies to Support ELs.”

Share Sentences with Multiple Prepositional Phrases

Invite pairs to share the prepositional phrases and objects they identified in the sentences. Discuss their choices. Ask the following questions:

• What are the prepositions? What are their objects?
• What kind of information does each prepositional phrase provide? (where something is, what something is, or when something happened)

3. Independent Writing and Conferring

Say: We learned that research reports include prepositional phrases to provide specific details about topics. Prepositional phrases tell things such as what things are, where things happen, and when things happen. We can use prepositional phrases to clarify details in our own writing.

If you would like to give students additional practice identifying multiple prepositional phrases, have them complete BLM 8.

4. Share

Review and provide corrective feedback based on students’ answers to BLM 8. Ask students to share what they learned about using multiple prepositional phrases in sentences.

Strategies to Support ELs

Beginning

Beginning ELs will need significant support with simple prepositional phrases. Illustrate the concept with simple, visual examples. Place a book on the top of a table. Ask: Where is the book? The book is on the table. Write the question and answer on chart paper and read these aloud with students. Then place the book on the floor. Ask: Where is the book? Encourage students to answer the question using the sentence frame The book is on ______. Repeat this activity as you place the book in other locations so that students can practice orally forming prepositional phrases with the preposition on in simple sentences.

Intermediate and Advanced

Pair students with fluent English speakers to complete “Practice Identifying Prepositional Phrases” and the BLM. Make sure that students understand the meaning of each preposition before they begin the activity.