

Prepositional Phrases

- 12c.** A *preposition* is a word that shows the relationship of a noun or pronoun, called the *object of the preposition*, to another word.

All together, the preposition, its object, and any modifiers of the object are called a *prepositional phrase*.

EXAMPLE Which flowers grow best in **this sandy soil**? [The prepositional phrase consists of the preposition *in*, the object *soil*, and the adjectives *this* and *sandy*.]

Do not confuse a prepositional phrase that begins with *to* (*to the game, to me*) with an infinitive that begins with *to* (*to read, to be heard*).

EXERCISE A For each of the following sentences, underline the prepositional phrase.

Example 1. Maya Angelou was born in St. Louis, Missouri.

1. Maya Angelou grew up in rural Arkansas.
2. Her career began with dance and drama.
3. Dr. Angelou is fluent in several languages.
4. Audiences throughout the United States have enjoyed Dr. Angelou's lectures.
5. Maya Angelou has also lectured in several foreign countries.
6. Dr. Angelou lived in Cairo, Egypt.
7. Dr. Angelou has also lived and taught in Ghana.
8. In 1969, Maya Angelou wrote an autobiographical novel.
9. She has made several appearances on television.
10. Dr. Maya Angelou's great works are respected around the world.

EXERCISE B For each of the following sentences, circle the preposition and underline the object of the preposition.

Example 1. Please don't run in the hallway.

11. This film takes place during the Depression.
12. I found my baseball glove underneath the bed.
13. In spite of the rain the band continued playing.
14. Everybody ran five laps around the track.
15. Is Santa Monica near the beach?