

# Phrases

**A phrase is a group of words that belong to each other as a single unit and does not contain a subject.**

## Prepositional Phrases

When a phrase begins with a **preposition**, it is called a **prepositional phrase**

*e.g. at the beach, under the umbrella, in the morning*

These phrases often tell us when or where

**1 Underline the prepositional phrase in each sentence. Write where or when.**

- a) We can often hear bats screeching at night-time. ....
- b) He left his keys in the car. ....
- c) The bells rang on Sunday morning. ....
- d) Most of the tourists were from Japan. ....
- e) Police cars patrolled the highways throughout the holiday weekend.....
- f) During the winter months, the girls play hockey every Saturday. ....
- g) Council workers removed tons of rubbish from the sportsground. ....
- h) He waited outside the post office. ....
- i) I spotted ten kangaroos gathered around a waterhole. ....
- j) Before breakfast each morning, he runs around the block. ....



**2 Complete the boxes below with your own prepositional phrases. Begin each with a different preposition.**

Phrase telling when	Phrase telling where
e.g. in the afternoon	e.g. over the rainbow

3 Complete the sentences with the following phrases.

*Opposite the school Since the accident from the plane on the guitar  
by midnight into a dozen pieces before 10 o'clock off his board  
throughout the night on the cliff during the final heat.*

- a) The truckdriver had to drive .....
- b) He stood ..... watching the waves below.
- c) The parachutist jumped .....
- d) He played his favourite song .....
- e) The glass ornament fell and smashed .....
- f) Cinderella had to be home .....
- g) ..... is a new fitness centre.
- h) ....., my brother has to use crutches when he walks.
- i) Don't ring me .....
- j) The surfer fell .....

As well as telling us when and where, prepositional phrases may also tell how or why

*e.g. The old man walked **with a limp**.*

The phrase **with a limp** tell us how the man walked.

*The girl rang the theatre **in order to be on time**.*

The phrase **in order to be on time** tells why the girl rang the theatre.

4 Underline the 'how' phrase in these sentences.

- a) The horses were galloping at breakneck speed.
- b) The man swam with long, powerful strokes.
- c) The residents saved lots of money by using solar power.
- d) The organisers were worried but the event proceeded without any problems.
- e) The cheetah ran like the wind.
- f) The lost bushwalker survived by eating berries.