

# Using Prepositional Phrases

Consider using with *Voyages in English 2011*  
Grade 3—Chapter 7 Creative Writing or  
Chapter 8 Research Reports  
Grade 4—Chapter 3 Descriptions or  
Section 7 Punctuation and Capitalization



## Teach

Tell students that using prepositional phrases can make their writing clearer and more descriptive.

- A prepositional phrase consists of a preposition and its object.
- A preposition is a word that shows the relationship between a noun or a pronoun and another word in a sentence. The noun or pronoun that follows the preposition is called the object of a preposition.
- Prepositional phrases can act as adjectives that tell what kind, which ones, how many, or how much.
- Prepositional phrases can act as adverbs that tell where, when, or how.

Write these prepositional phrases on the board and identify the preposition and the object of the preposition in each. Discuss whether each phrase tells what kind, which one, how many, how much, where, when, or how.

by the river	over the top	under the bridge	with courage	of the people
during the night	after dinner	in twenty years	over time	in a dozen
from Canada	around noon	without pockets	toward me	against the door

## Practice

Display some interesting illustrations or photographs. Explain that you will write captions for the pictures and use prepositional phrases to make the captions more informative. As you write, point out the prepositional phrases in each caption. Then identify what information the phrase provides. Tell students that your captions explain what they see in the picture and that the prepositional phrases help draw attention to particular details.

Invite volunteers to suggest other sentences as captions. Guide students to identify the parts of each prepositional phrase and the information they provide.

## Apply

Provide students with a number of pictures to use as they write captions. Include photographs, illustrations, and cartoons. Remind students that the caption should explain or tell more about the picture. If students need help, remind them that they can start by writing a descriptive sentence and then revise the sentence by adding prepositional phrases. Point out that asking what kind, which one, how many, how much, where, when, or how can help them figure out which prepositional phrases they may want to add.

## Assess

Have students share their pictures and captions. Ask each student to identify the prepositional phrases in the caption. Invite the class to identify whether each prepositional phrase tells the reader who, what, where, why, or how.

*Listening and Speaking Connection:* Invite students to meet in small groups to discuss their pictures and captions. Suggest that they take turns displaying pictures and reading aloud the captions. Have students ask what else they would like to know about the picture and invite them to suggest other information that could be added to the sentence in the form of a prepositional phrase. Ask each group to share their best revisions with the class.