

POWER SENTENCES - USING PREPOSITIONAL PHRASES

Prepositions are words that sit before a noun or a pronoun to show that word's relationship to another nearby word.

EXAMPLES: *about, at, to, with, for, in, around, like, beyond, from, off, along, near, inside, outside, by, on, at, upon, down, up, inside, outside, over, under, through*

Prepositional phrases start with a preposition and end with noun or a pronoun. Any word that will fit in this blank is a preposition: It was _____ the box.

EXAMPLES: *about the box, at the box, beyond the box, from the box, near the box, over the box, under the box, inside the box, outside the box, by the box*

Prepositional phrases can occur at various places in a sentence. You may find them in the beginning of a sentence (*opener*), between a subject and verb (*s-v split*), or at the end of a sentence (*closer*).

EXAMPLES:

Opener: *Like a lean, gray wolf, he moved silently and easily.*
Joan Aiken, *A Necklace of Raindrops*

S-V Split: *Captain Eaton, in his good blue coat, was shouting orders from the quarter deck. (Also from the quarterdeck.)*
Elizabeth George Speare, *The Witch of Blackbird Pond*

Closer: *He was a Real Rabbit at last, at home with the other rabbits. (Two prepositional phrases in a row.)*
Margery Williams, *The Velveteen Rabbit*

Punctuation Guidelines:

If a sentence starts with a long prepositional phrase (four or more words) a comma should follow the phrase.

EXAMPLE: *On the whole enormous prairie, there was no sign that any other human being had ever been there.*

If a sentence starts with two or more prepositional phrases in a row, a comma should follow the phrases.

EXAMPLE: *In the morning after the sunrise, he would often go to the lake to fish.*

If a prepositional phrase (one or more) come between the subject and verb, commas are often used around them.

EXAMPLE: *Paul Revere, at a signal from his friend, rode away to give warning of the advance of the British.*

Also, you may need a comma to clear up possible confusion or if there's a distinct pause.

EXAMPLE: *Jenny and Melissa went racing back, across the meadow and through the forest to the little cabin near the stream.*