

# POWER SENTENCES - USING PREPOSITIONAL PHRASES

## ★ PRACTICE 1: MATCHING

- Match the prepositional phrases with the sentences.
- Write out each sentence, inserting and underlining the prepositional phrases at the caret (^).
- Use all three positions at least once — opener, s-v split, closer.

EXAMPLE: *The horses, in their stalls in the barn, pricked up their ears when they heard the goose hollering.*

E.B. White, *Charlotte's Web*

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### Sentences:

- ^ Pies were baking in the oven.  
Ray Bradbury, "I See You Never"
- Their path wound, in and out ^.  
Lois Lenski, *Strawberry Girl*
- ^ He could see that the sun had melted into the horizon, but to the east the sky looked dark and bruised.  
Donna Hill, "Ghost Cat"
- Jonas, ^, searched the auditorium for a glimpse of his father.  
Lois Lowry, *The Giver*
- I saw the three Sadler kids, ^, walking barefoot along the shore.  
R. L. Stine, *Ghost Beach*

### Prepositional Phrases: (Prepositions are underlined.)

- in shorts and sleeveless T-shirts  
(one prepositional phrase)
- from his place in the balcony  
(two prepositional phrases in a row)
- inside Mrs. O'Brien's kitchen  
(one prepositional phrase)
- to the west, through the trees  
(two prepositional phrases in a row)
- through the scrub, around palmetto clumps, over trunks of fallen trees, under dwarf pines and oaks  
(many prepositional phrases in a row)

## ★ PRACTICE 2: IDENTIFYING

A. Write the following sentences.

B. Underline the prepositional phrases in these sentences.

EXAMPLE: With the flavor of ham and biscuit in his mouth, the boy felt good.

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6. Over the river and through the woods, to Grandmother's house we go.  
Anonymous
  
7. The curtains, like her bed cover, were faded and limp.  
Lynne Reid Banks, *One More River*
  
8. In the moonlight, Sophie caught a glimpse of an enormous long wide wrinkly face with the most enormous ears.  
Roald Dahl, *The Big Friendly Giant*
  
9. For two nights and days, imprisoned in his crate, Buck neither ate nor drank.  
Jack London, *The Call of the Wild*
  
10. By the end of class, Harry, like everyone else, was sweaty, aching, and covered in earth.  
J.K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*

## ★ PRACTICE 3: COMBINING

- A. Combine the two sentences by making the underlined part of the second sentence a prepositional phrase to put at the caret (^).
- B. Write the new sentence and underline the prepositional phrases.

EXAMPLE:        a. ^ There was no sign that any other human being had ever been there.  
                      b. It was on the whole enormous prairie.

Laura Ingalls Wilder, *Little House on the Prairie*

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

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11a. The Monster, ^, lunged forward with a terrible scream.

11b. It lunged at the first motion.

Ray Bradbury, *A Sound of Thunder*

12a. ^ The boy and the dog came to a small open space where there had once been a log ramp.

12b. It was in the pine woods, along a deserted logging road.

William H. Armstrong, *Souder*

13a. ^ The boy had picked up the Indian by the waist between his thumb and forefinger.

13b. He did it with one quick movement.

Lynne Reid Banks, *The Indian in the Cupboard*

14a. Then they came, ^.

14b. They came up the street and around the house.

Hal Borland, *When the Legends Die*

15a. ^ The pig burst from under the fence, heaving Taran into the air.

15b. It happened in an explosion of dirt and pebbles.

Lloyd Alexander, *The Book of Three*

## ★ PRACTICE 4: UNSCRAMBLING

- A. Unscramble the list of sentence parts and write out the sentence. Add commas and end punctuation where necessary.
- B. Underline the sentence parts that are prepositional phrases. NOTE: The capitalized sentence part begins the sentence.

- EXAMPLE:
- a. upon the bats
  - b. On silent wings
  - c. the powerful bird swooped down

Janell Cannon, *Stellaluna*

On silent wings, the powerful bird swooped down upon the bats.

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- 16a. and to know where to find them
- 16b. In a surprisingly short time
- 16c. he grew to recognize individual fish

Arthur C. Clarke, *Dolphin Island*

- 17a. she stood still
- 17b. and listened
- 17c. of the attic stairs
- 17d. At the foot

Madeleine L'Engle, *A Wrinkle in Time*

- 18a. filled
- 18b. On the way
- 18c. Claire's shoes
- 18d. with snow
- 18e. to school

Rosemary Wells, *First Tomato*

- 19a. dressed only
- 19b. In his dream
- 19c. he stood
- 19d. in his underwear
- 19e. of that very cafe
- 19f. in front

Chris Van Allsburg, *The Sweetest Fig*

- 20a. and dropped
- 20b. with a heavy jolt
- 20c. they hit the thick tree trunk
- 20d. to the ground
- 20e. With an earsplitting bang
- 20f. on wood
- 20g. of metal

J.K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*