

Know Your Building Materials!

Prepositional Phrases

A **prepositional phrase** starts with a preposition and ends with an object that is usually a noun or a pronoun.

The cat is hiding **behind the door**.

Come to the concert **with me**.

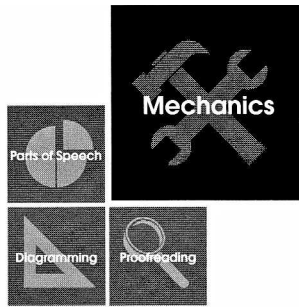
Climb **into the car in the driveway**.

Draw one line under the prepositional phrase(s) and two lines under the preposition(s) in each sentence.

1. The teenager in the red jacket ran past the door.
2. Under the tree in the back of the lawn is a wrecked car.
3. Among young men, suits and ties are not the fashion.
4. I would love to dance in *The Nutcracker* like you.
5. Between you and me, I think this exercise is too easy.

List six prepositions not used in the exercise above.

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 2. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 4. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 6. _____ |



Good Mechanics Are Hard to Find

Of, Off, Have

People often misuse **of**, **off**, and **have**.

Of is a preposition that means “belonging to something,” “containing something,” or “about something.”

Off is a preposition meaning “away from something.” Do not use “off of” or “off” instead of “from.”

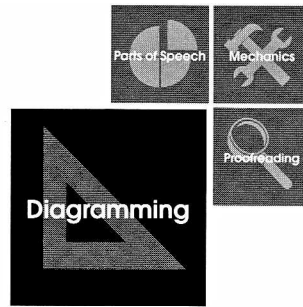
Have is a verb or a helping verb used with “should,” “must,” “might,” or “could.”

Choose the correct word.

1. Mom should (of, have) gotten some milk at the store.
2. I got the answers (off, off of, from) my friend.
3. Please get (off, off of) my bed.
4. Beth ought to (of, have) gone to bed earlier.
5. The box (of, off) chocolates disappeared fast.
6. The girl must (of, have) been diving (off, off of) the cliff.

Fill in the blanks

The parts of a compound sentence can be connected by either a coordinate _____ or a punctuation mark called a _____.



Understand the Structure

Adjective Prepositional Phrases

Some prepositional phrases function as adjectives. They are diagrammed below the noun or pronoun they modify.

The girl **in the red dress** dances well.

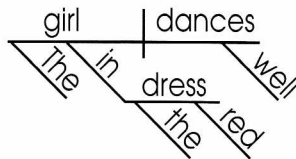


Diagram the following sentences.

1. The author of the book writes very skillfully.
2. The bird with the blue feathers flew overhead.
3. The black truck with the dent in the side was speeding.



Careless Mistakes Can Cause Big Problems!

Proofreading

Correct the mistakes in the sentences below. **There are eight mistakes.**

Rasputin was one of the most great villains in history. He was a advisor to the czar of Russia in the late 1800s. His enemies tried to assassinate him but he kept refusing to die. First, they feed him poisoned wine and cake but he didn't die. Then they shot him in the back and left him to bleed to death. You would of thought that was enough, but Rasputin still didnt die. In desperation, they shot him six more times. The hole story sounds like a *Three Stooges* movie.