

# Read and Discover

## Prepositional Phrases

### Lesson 6

The hummingbirds flew around the garden.

Where did the hummingbirds fly? \_\_\_\_\_

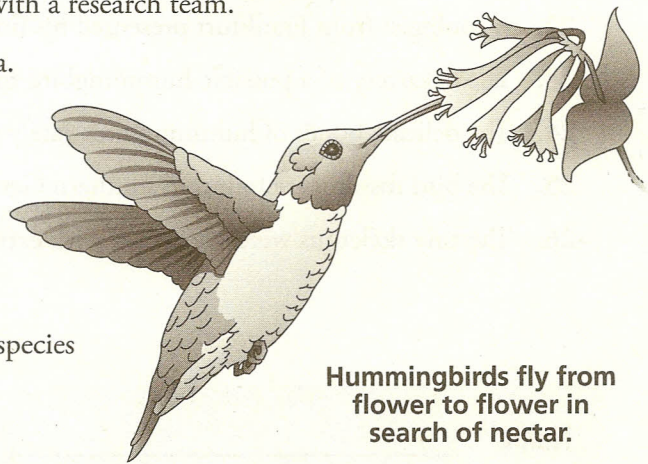
A **prepositional phrase** can tell *how, what kind, when, how much, or where*. A prepositional phrase begins with a **preposition**, such as *about, around, at, by, from, in, into, of, on, over, to, or with*. It ends with a noun or pronoun that is the **object of the preposition**. The words between the preposition and its object are part of the prepositional phrase. A prepositional phrase can appear at the beginning, middle, or end of a sentence.

See Handbook Section 20

### Part 1

Underline each prepositional phrase. Circle the preposition that begins each phrase. Put a box around the object of the preposition. There may be more than one prepositional phrase in each sentence.

1. We are learning about different bird species in science class.
2. Last week, a guest speaker from the bird sanctuary visited our class.
3. Our science teacher introduced the guest speaker to us.
4. The speaker gave an interesting talk on his favorite subject—hummingbirds.
5. He is an expert on these tiny, colorful birds.
6. Hummingbirds are the size of a thumb; their wings can beat 80 times per second.
7. The needle-like beak of a hummingbird can reach into long flower blossoms.
8. Hummingbirds can hover in the air and can fly backward.
9. A hummingbird extracts nectar from flowers with its long, thin tongue.
10. This species of bird is found only in North America and South America.
11. The speaker described his recent trip to Ecuador with a research team.
12. Ecuador is located in northwestern South America.
13. This country has 163 species of hummingbird—the largest number in any one country.
14. The speaker gave us information about Ecuador's hummingbird species.
15. The Esmeraldas Woodstar is a rare hummingbird species found in western Ecuador in a fog forest.
16. This tiny bird is dangerously close to extinction.



Hummingbirds fly from flower to flower in search of nectar.

**Part 2**

Rewrite each sentence. Add at least one prepositional phrase to make the sentence give more information. Use prepositional phrases from the work bank, or think of your own.

above the treetops  
during the day

from the United States  
toward the researchers

in their natural habitat  
near the campground

in Ecuador  
by plane

17. The researchers traveled to South America. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
18. They explored the tropical rainforest. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
19. The colorful hummingbirds flew. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
20. The researchers observed the hummingbirds. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Part 3**

See Handbook Section 20

A prepositional phrase can modify, or tell more about, a noun or pronoun. Prepositional phrases that modify nouns or pronouns are called *adjectival prepositional phrases*. An adjectival prepositional phrase usually comes after the noun or pronoun it modifies. A prepositional phrase can also modify a verb, an adverb, or an adjective. This type of prepositional phrase is called an *adverbial prepositional phrase*. Many adverbial prepositional phrases tell *when, where, how, or how long* something was done.

Circle the prepositional phrase in each sentence. Draw an arrow to the word or words it modifies. Then, on the line next to each sentence, write whether the phrase is an adjectival prepositional phrase or an adverbial prepositional phrase.

21. In 2004, many scientists visited Germany. \_\_\_\_\_
22. A zoologist from Frankfurt presented his findings. \_\_\_\_\_
23. The discovery of a possible hummingbird fossil astounded the scientists. \_\_\_\_\_
24. The delicate bones of hummingbirds rarely fossilize. \_\_\_\_\_
25. The bird fossils were found in southern Germany. \_\_\_\_\_
26. The tiny skeletons were unearthed with extreme care. \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_