

Practice Identifying Prepositional Phrases with Nouns with *English with Mrs. English*

Sample sentences are from *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain
(Please remember the writing style of *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* evokes the perspective, language, and environment of a pre-teen boy in the mid-1800s in a small Mississippi town and is *not* a formal writing style of today.)

Choose to do a few each day or to do them all at once. If you are struggling, find and mark (with circles and "rainbow" connections) the prepositional phrases that end with nouns. Note that some of these phrases have compound objects (more than one object). Although you are looking for prepositional phrases that end with nouns, there may be some that end with pronouns. If you find, those, too, give yourself an extra pat on the back!

Remember that articles (a, an, the) can help you find nouns because if you see one of these, a noun will follow with the only adjectives telling more about the noun between the article and the noun. Please also remember that a noun does *not* always have an article, so a person, place, thing, activity, or idea without an article is still a noun.

Check your answers with the Answer Key that is in a corresponding pdf. Understand your errors and study the diagramming provided at the end of the Answer Key.

The next day, do the same sentences again—marking the prepositional phrases *and* diagramming the phrases. If you feel relatively successful, repeat the process with the next several sentences. Continue with this method until you feel you understand what you are doing.

Also look for prepositional phrases with nouns in other sentences you read—or in conversations you hear—including in what you say yourself! Continue reading and watching *English with Mrs. English* for more practice and guidance.

1. There was a slight noise behind her and she turned just in time to seize a small boy by the slack of his roundabout and arrest his flight.
2. He had citified air about him that ate into Tom's vitals.
3. The new boy took two broad coppers out of his pocket and held them out with derision.
4. Tom struck them to the ground.
5. He began to think of the fun he had planned for this day, and his sorrows multiplied.
6. At this dark and hopeless moment an inspiration burst upon him!
7. Tom's mouth watered for the apple, but he stuck to his work.
8. Tom gave up the brush with reluctance in his face, but alacrity in his heart

9. And while the late steamer *Big Missouri* worked and sweated in the sun, the retired artist sat on a barrel in the shade close by, dangled his legs, munched his apple, and planned the slaughter of more innocents.
10. If he hadn't run out of whitewash, he would have bankrupted every boy in the village.
11. The boy mused awhile over the substantial change which had taken place in his worldly circumstances, and then wended toward headquarters to report.
12. Tom's army won a great victory, after a long and hard-fought battle.
13. She halted a moment on the steps and then moved to the door.
14. Tom sulked in a corner and exalted his woes.
15. Tom turned in without the added vexation of prayers, and Sid made mental note of the omission.
16. The sun rose upon a tranquil world, and beamed down upon the peaceful village like a benediction.
17. Then Tom traded a couple of white alleys for three red tickets, and some small trifle or other for a couple of blue ones.
18. But when he saw this small newcomer, his soul was all ablaze with bliss in a moment.
19. The visitors were given the highest seat of honor, and as soon as Mr. Walters's speech was finished, he introduced them to the school.
20. Walters was not expecting an application from this source for the next ten years.
21. Let us draw a curtain of charity over the rest of the scene.
22. He was regarded as a wonderful reader.
23. One of his upper front teeth was loose.
24. Huckleberry came and went, at his own free will.

25. When Tom reached the little isolated frame schoolhouse, he strode in briskly, with the manner of one who had come with all honest speed.
26. He hung his hat on a peg and flung himself into his seat with businesslike alacrity.
27. When school broke up at noon, Tom flew to Becky Thatcher, and whispered in her ear.
28. The boys moved off and disappeared in the gloom.
29. Potter started on a trot that quickly increased to a run.
30. All the town was drifting toward the graveyard.
31. The raft drew beyond the middle of the river; the boys pointed her head right, and then lay on their oars.
32. The pipe dropped from the fingers of the Red-Handed, and he slept the sleep of the conscience-free and the weary.
33. They lay around in the shade, after breakfast, while Huck had a smoke, and then went off through the woods on an exploring expedition.
34. A deep peal of thunder went rolling and tumbling down the heavens and lost itself in sullen rumblings in the distance.
35. The Harpers and Aunt Polly's family were being put into mourning, with great grief and many tears.
36. They had been hid in the unused gallery listening to their own funeral sermon!
37. Tom fled home at noon.
38. He started to school and had the luck of coming upon Becky Thatcher at the head of Meadow Lane.
39. Poor girl, she did not know how fast she was nearing trouble herself.

40. This nightmare occupied some ten pages of manuscript and would up with a sermon so destructive of all hope to non-Presbyterians that it took the first prize.
41. A third witness swore he had often seen the knife in Potter's possession.
42. Tom glanced at Injun Joe's iron face and his tongue failed him.
43. The slow days drifted on, and each left behind it a slightly lightened weight of apprehension.
44. The boys were there that night, about the appointed time.
45. They sat in the shadow waiting.
46. It was a lonely place, and an hour made solemn by old traditions.
47. Spirits whispered in the rustling leaves, ghosts lurked in the murky nooks, the deep baying of a hound floated up out of the distance, an owl answered with his sepulchral note.
48. Their interest grew stronger, and their industry kept pace with it.
49. They had started down the hill by this time.
50. About noon the next day the boys arrived at the dead tree; they had come for their tools.
51. As the sun began to sink into the west, they took their way homeward athwart the long shadows of the trees and soon were buried from sight in the forests of Cardiff Hill.
52. On Saturday, shortly after noon, the boys were at the dead tree again.
53. The adventure of the day mightily tormented Tom's dreams that night.
54. Tom concluded to let Huck lead up to the subject.
55. It was not custom for elderly people to mar picnics with their presence.
56. They plunged into the narrow path between the tall sumac bushes, and were at once hidden in the gloom.
57. Then he remembered that the Widow Douglas had been kind to him more than once, and maybe these men were going to murder her.

58. When he emerged at the quarry, he felt secure, and so he picked up his nimble heels and flew.
59. He banged at the door, and presently the heads of the old man and his two stalwart sons were thrust from windows.
60. Three minutes later the old man and his sons, well-armed, were up the hill, and just entering the sumac path on tiptoe, their weapons in their hands.
61. He waited for no particulars.
62. As the earliest suspicion of dawn appeared on Sunday morning, Huck came groping up the hill and rapped gently at the old Welshman's door.
63. These were strange words to the vagabond boy's ears, and the pleasantest he had ever heard.
64. There was no Sabbath school during day-school vacation, but everybody was early at church.
65. Whispers passed along, and a boding uneasiness took possession of every countenance.
66. One young man finally blurted out his fear that they were still in the cave!
67. Mrs. Thatcher recognized the ribbon and cried over it.
68. Three dreadful days and nights dragged their tedious hours along, and the village sank into a hopeless stupor.
69. The widow burst into tears.
70. They smoked their own names under an overhanging shelf and moved on.
71. Becky responded to his call, and they made a smoke mark for future guidance, and started upon their quest.
72. Tom found a subterranean lake, shortly, which stretched its dim length away until its shape was lost in the shadows.
73. At last Becky's frail limbs refused to carry her farther.

74. The peaceful face reflected somewhat of peace and healing into his own spirit, and his thoughts wandered away to bygone times and dreamy memories.
75. Tom divided the cake and Becky ate with good appetite, while Tom nibbled at his moiety.
76. A frightened look in Becky's face brought Tom to his senses and he saw that he had made a blunder.
77. The children groped their way back to the spring.
78. Tom's fright weakened every muscle in his body.
79. The children awoke tortured with a raging hunger.
80. Aunt Polly had drooped into a settled melancholy, and her gray hair had grown almost white.
81. Three days and night of toil and hunger in the cave were note to be shaken off at once, as Tom and Becky soon discovered.
82. Tom learned of Huck's sickness and went to see him on Friday, but could not be admitted to the bedroom; neither could he on Saturday or Sunday.
83. Tom turned as white as a sheet.
84. When the cave door was unlocked, a sorrowful sight presented itself in the dim twilight of the place.
85. In one place near at hand, a stalagmite had been slowly growing up from the ground for ages, built by the water drip from a stalactite overhead.
86. The morning after the funeral Tom took Huck to a private place to have an important talk.
87. Then Huck told his entire adventure in confidence to Tom, who had only heard of the Welshman's part of it before.
88. By this time everything was ready and the boys entered the hole, Tom in the lead.

89. The boys began to quiet down to whispers, now, for the stillness and gloom of the place oppressed their spirits.
90. Tom went first, cutting rude steps in the clay ill as he descended.
91. They had concealed a natural chasm which led under the rock.
92. It weighed about fifty pounds.
93. The money was soon in the bags, and the boys took it up to the cross rock.
94. Tom ran out of doors.
95. Tom entered, struggling with the weight of his sacks, and Aunt Polly did not finish her sentence.
96. The sum amounted to a little over twelve thousand dollars.
97. The reader may rest satisfied that Tom's and Huck's windfall made a mighty stir in the poor little village of St. Petersburg.
98. The village paper published biographical sketches of the boys.
99. Judge Thatcher had conceived a great opinion of Tom.
100. Huck was silent for some time, engaged in a mental struggle.