

## OBJECTS OF A PREPOSITION

A preposition may show position in a sentence (*within, toward, through, above, etc.*), but it doesn't necessarily have to (*as, for, with, etc.*).

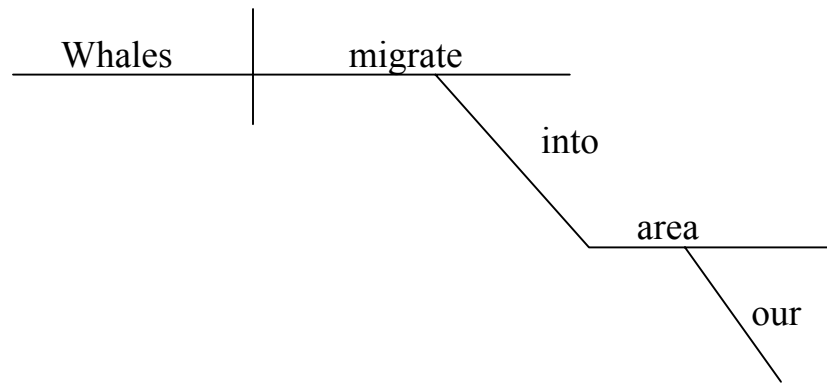
The major function of a preposition is to show the relationship of its object to the rest of the sentence. This object has to be either a noun or a pronoun, and the whole prepositional phrase usually functions either as an adverb or an adjective.

### **Prepositional Phrases Functioning as Adverbs**

For the prepositional phrase to function as an adverb, it must answer the question *Where? When? Why? or How?* For example, look at the following sentence:

Example: Northern right whales migrate **into our area**.

In this sentence, you first find the action word, *migrate*, and ask *Migrate where?* The answer is *into our area*. Thus, the prepositional phrase in this sentence is used as an adverbial phrase modifying the verb *migrate*. The sentence can be diagrammed as follows:



### Prepositional Phrases Functioning as Adjectives

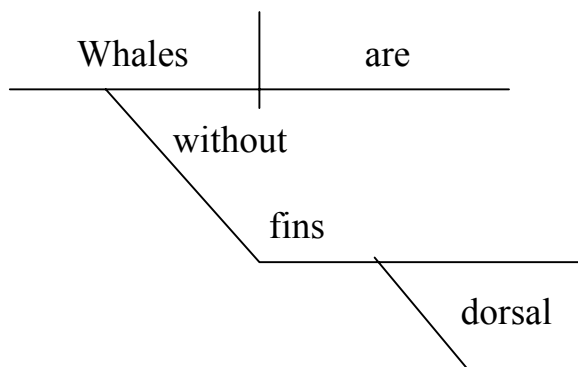
For the prepositional phrase to function as an adjective, it modifies a noun by answering the question *Which one? What kind of? or To what degree?*

Notice the next example:

Example: The whales **without dorsal fins** are northern right whales.

In this sentence, you can find the noun *whales* and then ask *Which whales?*

The answer is the ones *without dorsal fins*. Thus, the prepositional phrase in this sentence is used as an adjective phrase modifying the noun *whales*. The sentence can be diagrammed as follows:

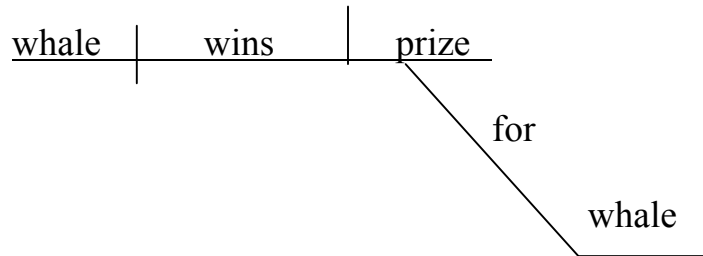


**Exercise 3: Diagramming Subjects, Verbs, Direct Objects, and Objects of Prepositions**  
*The Northern Right Whale*

**Directions:** Print the following exercise. Place the subject, verb, and direct object (if there is one) on the diagram frame provided.

Add to the frame by placing the preposition and its object either under subject, verb, or direct object as appropriate. **Do not worry about the other modifiers in the sentence.** The first sentence has been done for you.

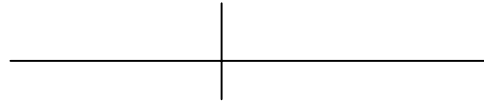
1. The northern right whale wins the prize for the most endangered whale.



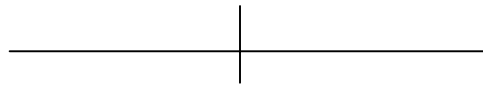
2. The right whale faces a high likelihood of extinction.



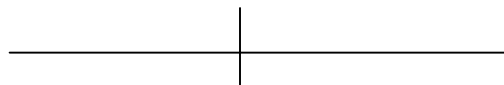
3. Florida takes a special interest in right whales.



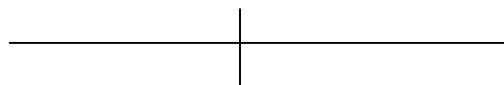
4. Their only known calving ground is found off Georgia and Florida.



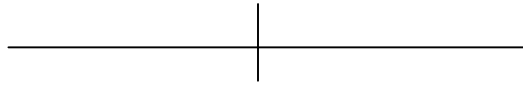
5. The western North Atlantic population of northern right whales includes a mere 300 to 350 animals.



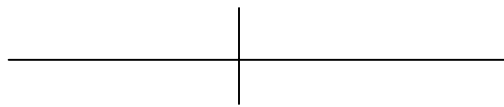
6. Whalers labeled these animals as “right whales.”



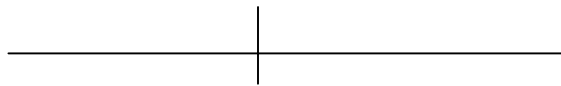
7. The reasons for this name revolve around the hunt.



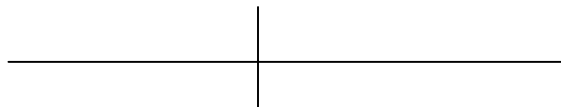
8. The right whales swim poorly in coastal waters.



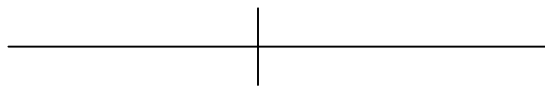
9. When harvested, the whales float on the water.



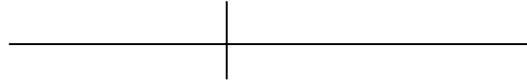
10. Consequently, right whales were hunted to near extinction.



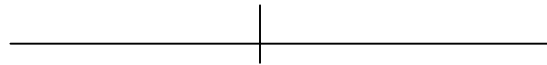
11. At that time, the United States banned men from hunting the whales.



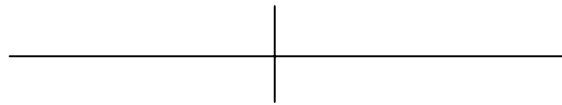
12. Now, 30 percent of all right whale deaths occur from shipping vessel collisions.



13. Sometimes the right whales get entangled in fishing gear, nets, or long lines.



14. Their V-shaped blow is visible from a distance.



Adapted from: [http://floridamarine.org/features/view\\_article.asp?id=7188](http://floridamarine.org/features/view_article.asp?id=7188)