

Prepositional Phrases!



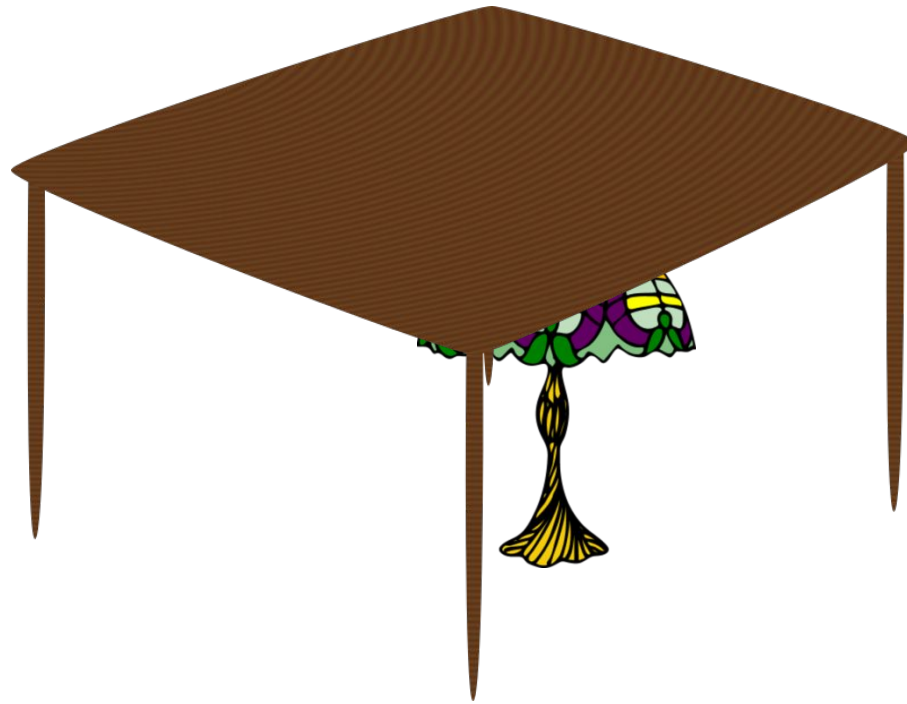
A prepositional phrase...

- ...shows how a noun or pronoun relates to another word in a sentence.

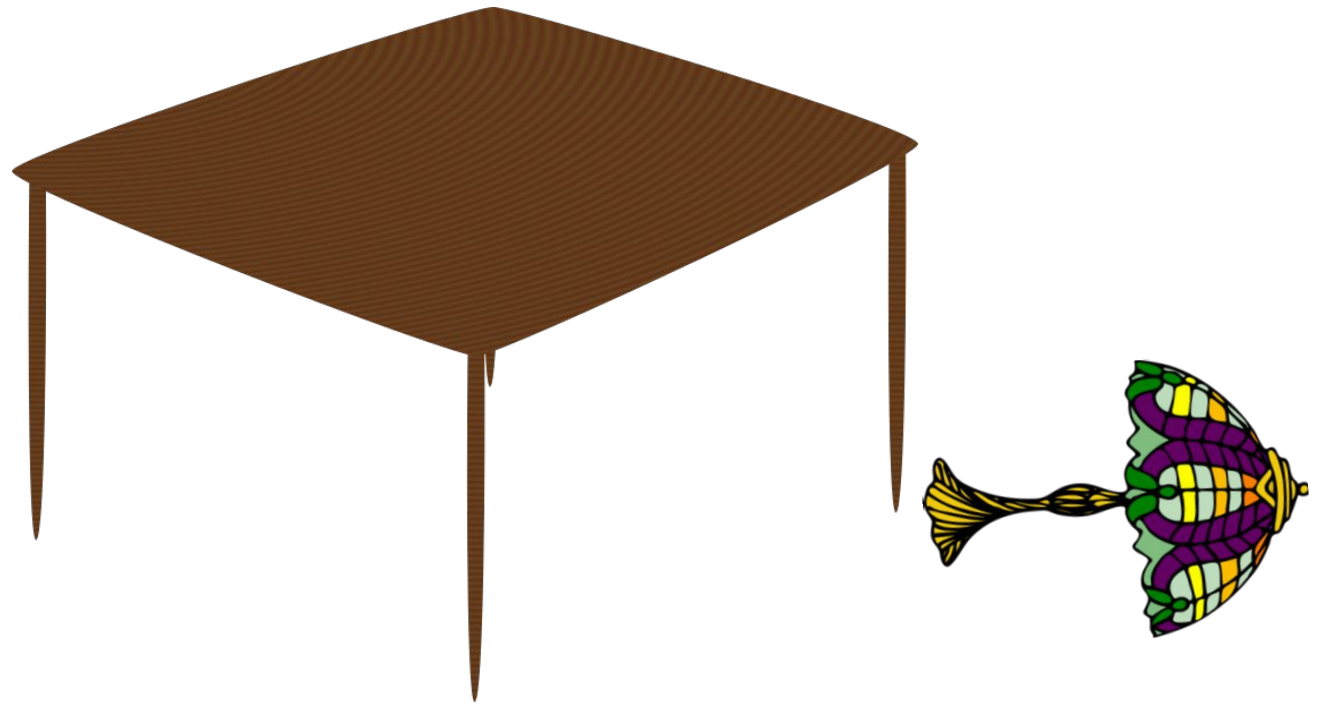
The lamp is
(on the
table).



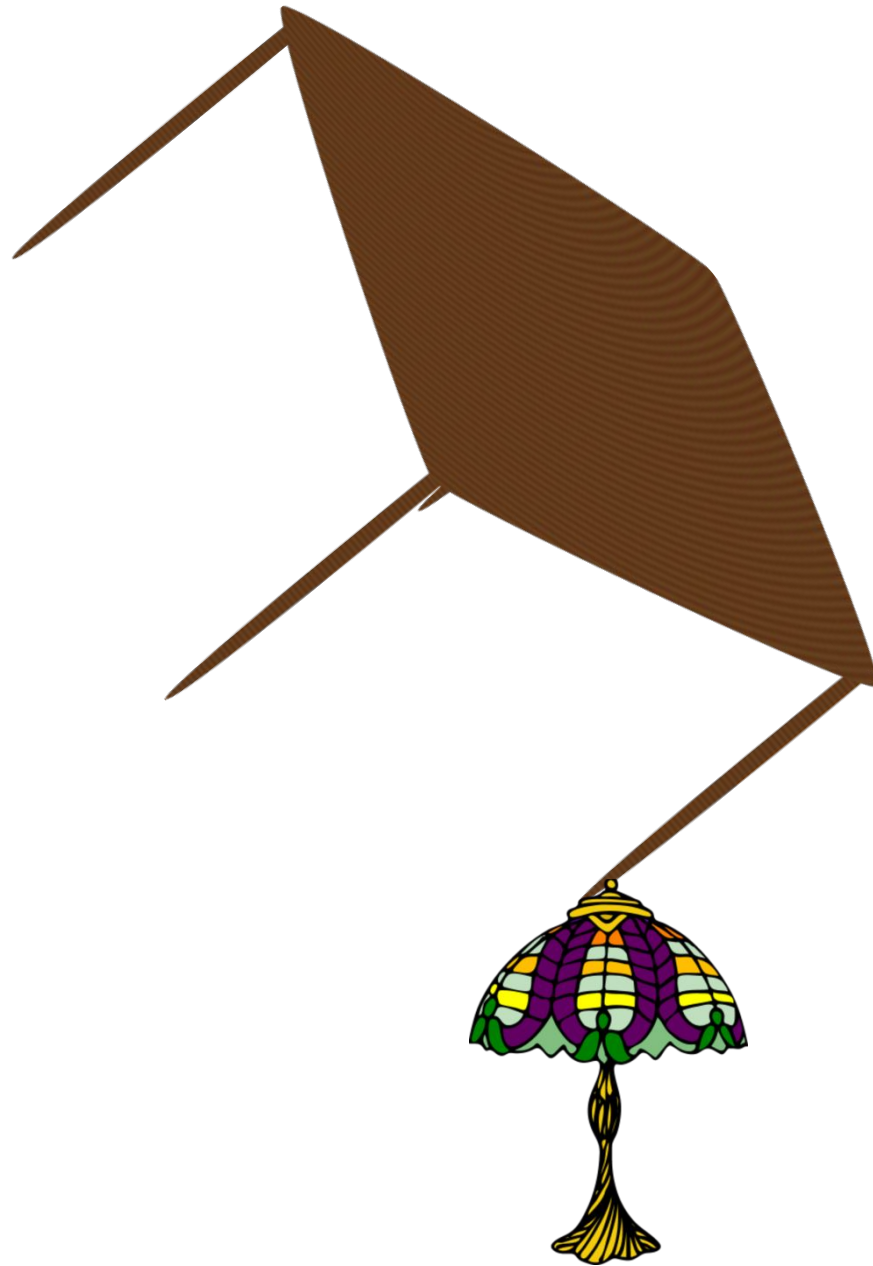
The lamp is (under the table).



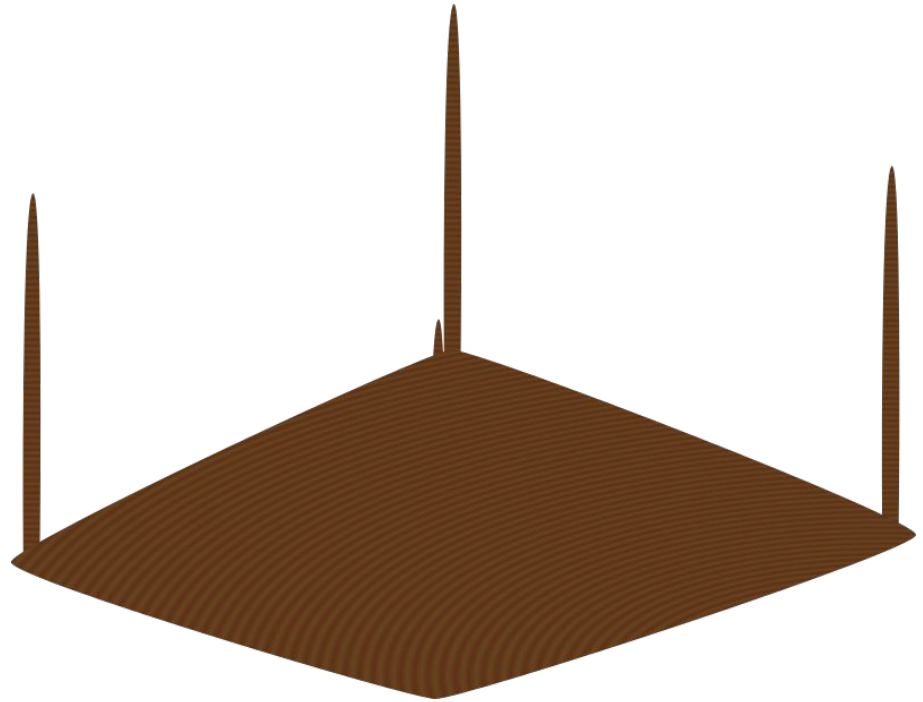
The lamp fell (off the table).



The
table
is
(on
the
lamp)!



The table fell (off the lamp).



The table is (among the lamps).

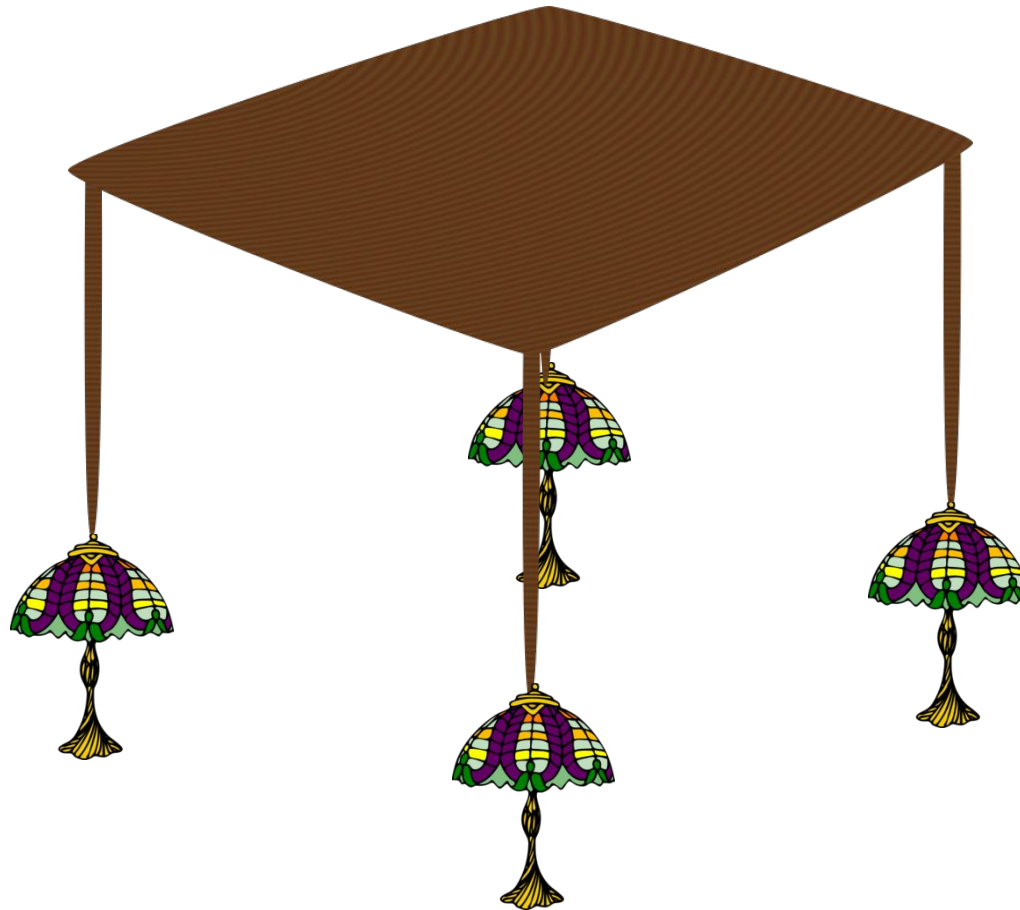


A prepositional phrase (PP) has three parts:

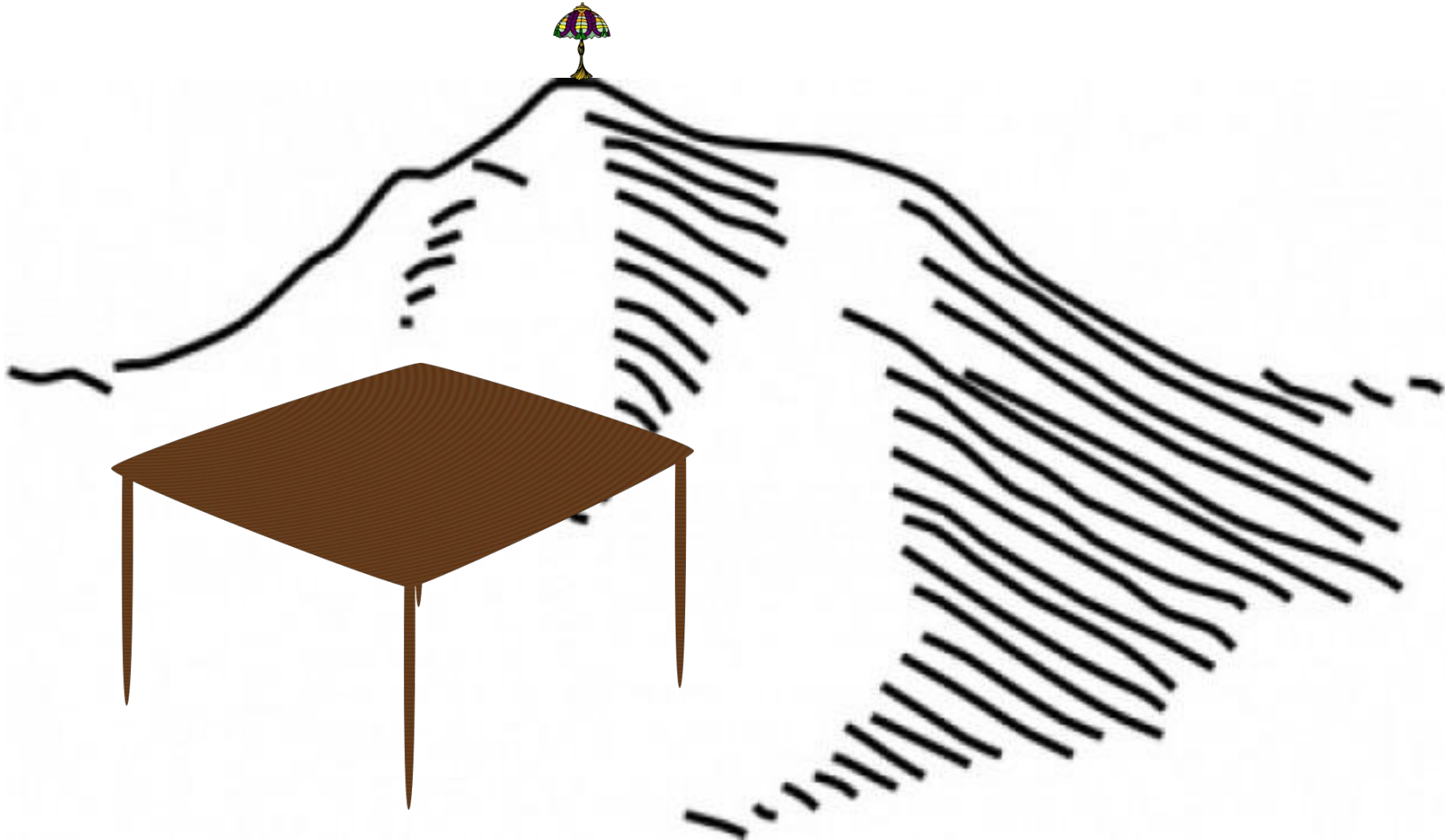
- **Preposition** – a prep. phrase *MUST have this*. It's always FIRST in the phrase.
- **Modifiers** (adjectives) – a PP does NOT have to have modifiers. Mods come between the prep and object.
- **Object of the Preposition** – a prep. phrase *MUST have this*. It's a noun or pronoun and it's always LAST in the prep. phrase.



The table is (^{Prep}on ^{Mod}the ^{Object}lamps).



The lamp is (**behind** **the** **table**).



A prep. phrase can have several
modifiers:

The lamp is (**in** **the** **lion's** **mouth**).

Prep Mod Mod Object

↓ ↓ ↓ ↓



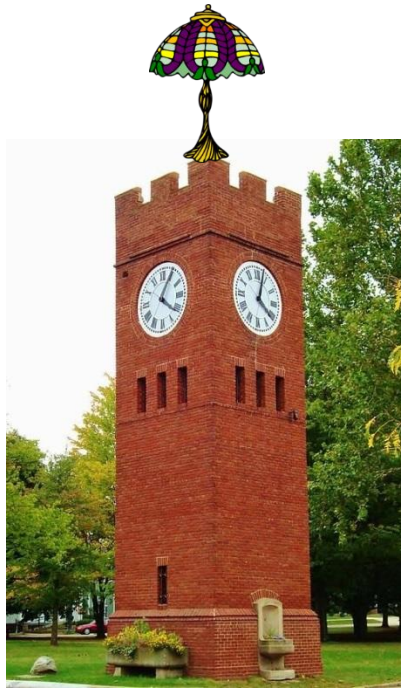
The lamp is (in the lion's hot,
Mod Mod Mod Mod
↓ ↓ ↓ ↓
drooly mouth).
Mod Object
↓ ↓



A prep. phrase can have
no modifiers:

The lamp is (in Hudson).

Prep Object
↓ ↓



Prep Object
↓ ↓
The lamp is (in 1902).



The lamp is (on fire)!



Important tip! A prep. phrase
always starts with a preposition and
ends at the next noun.

Prep Mod Mod Object (noun)
↓ ↓ ↓ ↓
The lamp is (**under the massive truck**).



Another important tip! Simple subjects and simple predicates (verbs) will *never, ever be found in a prep. phrase*. Identifying prep. phrases helps you find the SS and SP!

The lamp (**in the trash can**) (**on the beach**)
was lovely.



One last important tip! Be careful of the ***infinitive***. An infinitive looks like a preposition because it starts with the word *to*. *To* is a preposition in a LOT of cases, but when you have **to + a verb**, you have an infinitive and it's NOT a prepositional phrase!

- We have (**to go**) (**to the store**) (**after school**).
- The charity organization came (**to collect**) a donation.
- Native Americans had (**to fish**) (**to collect**) food (**for their people**).