The Adjective Phrase

A prepositional phrase used as an adjective is called an adjective phrase.

**EXAMPLES**  Someone **in my class** lent me a wonderful story. [The prepositional phrase **in my class** modifies the pronoun **Someone.**]

The story **about Scrooge and Tiny Tim** has become famous. [The prepositional phrase **about Scrooge and Tiny Tim** modifies the noun **story.**]

**EXERCISE A** Underline the adjective phrases in the following sentences. Then, draw an arrow from each phrase to the noun or pronoun it modifies.

**Example 1.** Charles Dickens wrote many tales **about poverty.**

1. *A Christmas Carol* is the story of a rich man’s repentance.
2. Ebenezer Scrooge was a man of wealth and property.
3. His clerk, Bob Cratchit, led a difficult life **in poverty.**
4. Spirits from the past, present, and future warned Scrooge.
5. One of the spirits showed Scrooge **the poor, yet happy, Cratchit family.**
6. Dickens also began **writing a story about a mysterious disappearance.**
7. A character in the story, Edwin Drood, **disappears.**
8. Unfortunately, the death of Charles Dickens cut **short the story.**
9. The mystery of Edwin Drood’s disappearance **remains unsolved.**
10. The possible fate of the young man has fascinated **countless readers.**

**EXERCISE B** Underline each adjective phrase in the following sentences, and draw an arrow from the phrase to the word it modifies.

**Example 1.** Microorganisms **in the bodies of people and animals** cause disease.

11. Louis Pasteur was dean of the University of Lille’s science faculty.
12. The process of sterilization of milk is called **pasteurization.**
13. Bacteria **as the cause of disease** was a new idea then.
14. Pasteur’s studies of infectious diseases in animals helped him formulate his germ theory.
15. Pasteur developed a vaccine **against rabies in humans.**