

**OCTOPUS'S GARDEN** by The Beatles*Focus on: Prepositional Phrases— BEG 3e Ch. 1, 5, 6*

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**Notes for the Teacher****1. Preparing the Song**

Find the lyrics for the Beatles' song "Octopus's Garden." Make a worksheet of the lyrics, leaving out some prepositions, some prepositional phrases, and some objects of the phrases. Number the blank lines where the phrases should be and list the missing words, out of order, in a column on the right side of the page. Letter the choices in the right hand column.

Example with one stanza:

We would sing and dance around	a. the shade
because we know we can't be found	b. under the sea
I'd like to be (1)_____	c. in
(2)_____ an octopus' garden	
in (3)_____.	

Make it more difficult for your students by adding extra choices or by not keeping the choices separated by stanzas. Students will listen and write the letter of the missing words or phrases in the blank space.

There is a simple but useful animation that accompanies the song at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cgPqmRNjoTE&feature=related> which can be used in the lesson.

**2. Song background**

The song "Octopus's Garden" by the Beatles was included on the Abbey Road album released in 1969, considered by many music critics to be the Beatles' best studio album. The song was written and sung by Beatle's drummer Ringo Starr, who did not write many of the Beatles' songs. According to the BBC's h2g2 website (*The Guide to Life, The Universe, and Everything*), Ringo was inspired to write the song while on vacation in Sardinia, after learning from his island host that octopi like to crawl along the sea floor collecting shiny objects. The Beatles broke up in 1970, bringing an end to the band that is thought to be one of the most commercially successful and artistically acclaimed bands of modern times.

**3. Grammar background**

**Prepositional phrases** always begin with a preposition and must include an object of the preposition, which is a noun, pronoun, or gerund. At this level, only the first two are covered. Prepositional phrases do not include a verb.



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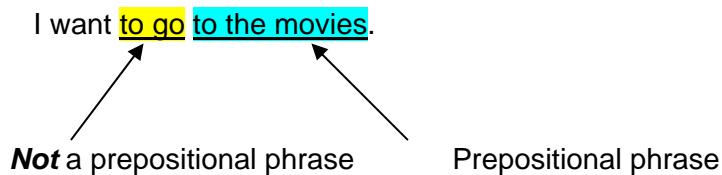
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Examples of **prepositional phrases**:

Preposition	Object of Preposition
<i>under</i> >	<i>the sea</i>
<i>beneath</i> >	<i>the waves</i>
<i>for</i> >	<i>every girl and boy</i>
<i>with</i> >	<i>me</i>

Take care not to mistake a particle for a preposition. The word “to” when followed by a verb is not a preposition:



In addition, the particle that creates a phrasal verb is not a preposition:

Will you look after the baby? (**not** a preposition)

### 3. Vocabulary

Low level students may need help with these words found in the song. Those with hyperlinks are best taught with a simple photo easily found at many sources. A link to one photo is provided.

- **octopus** (noun): [http://www.nurp.noaa.gov/Images/Spotlight/octopus\\_octopus.jpg](http://www.nurp.noaa.gov/Images/Spotlight/octopus_octopus.jpg)
- **shade** (noun): an area that is cooler and darker because sunlight does not reach it
- **hideaway** (noun): a quiet, isolated place where someone goes who wants to have privacy or seclusion
- **sea bed** (noun): the ocean floor
- **cave** (noun): [http://ruzzo.tripod.com/images/filicudi\\_isola\\_grotta\\_cave\\_bue\\_marino.jpg](http://ruzzo.tripod.com/images/filicudi_isola_grotta_cave_bue_marino.jpg)
- **coral** (noun): [http://www.chbr.noaa.gov/categories/raim/images/coral\\_01.jpg](http://www.chbr.noaa.gov/categories/raim/images/coral_01.jpg)
- **joy** (noun): happiness



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### **Student Worksheet**

#### **While you listen**

**1. Listen** to the song.

- What did you understand?
- What is the song about?
- What does the singer want?
- Do you think the song has a happy message, or something else? Why?

**2. Now look** at the video and listen again.

How does the video help you understand the song better?

- **Listen and complete** the worksheet about prepositional phrases.
- **Compare** your answers with another student's answers.
- **Identify** the different prepositions in the song.

#### **After you listen**

**3. Discuss:**

- Why does the singer want to be in an Octopus's Garden?
- Do you have a favorite hideaway? Where is it? Do you get there often? What do you like to do there? Is there anyone that you like to be there with you?
- Did you have a different hideaway when you were a child?

**4. Write:**

Describe your hideaway in a paragraph. Talk about its location, why you like it, how you feel there. Title your paragraph "My Hideaway".