

Grammar and Style

CHOOSE EFFECTIVE SETTING

Trollope uses careful word choice to create dramatic settings. He uses **prepositional phrases** to add details to his descriptions of the rugged landscape of Cornwall. Notice the prepositional highlighted in this description:

*There was a fissure **in the rock** so great that **at the top** it formed a narrow ravine, and so complete **from the summit to the base** that it afforded an opening **for a steep and ragged track from the top of the rock to the bottom**.* (lines 19–21)

Common prepositions include *above, at, before, below, by, down, for, from, in, into, near, or, on, out, over, through, to, up, with, and without*. A prepositional phrase has a preposition and its object. It can also include modifiers. Prepositional phrases should be placed near the word they modify.

Directions: Underline the prepositional phrases in each sentence from “Malachi’s Cove.” Then write your own sentences, using prepositional phrases as Trollope does. An example has been done for you.

EXAMPLE

Original: As she passed down the cove, and scrambled in among the rocks, she saw Barty still standing on his perch. (lines 236–238)

Revised: As she skipped along the edge of the fields, and ran through the tall grasses, she noticed a small cottage near the base of the hill.

1. Out beyond, the white curling waves were cresting and breaking themselves with violence, and the wind was howling among the caverns and abutments of the cliff. (lines 238–240)

2. The hole went in under the rocks, and the side of it towards the shore lay high, slippery, and steep. (lines 295–296)

3. But as she went down over the rocks with her long hook balanced in her hands, she suddenly heard a splash, and, turning quickly round, saw the body of her enemy tumbling amidst the eddying waves in the pool. (lines 318–320)
