


**SAQ 6**

On the left are ten sentences with prepositional phrases underlined. Match each phrase to one of the relationships listed on the right. State whether each prepositional phrase postmodifies a noun phrase or a verb phrase.

Example: She peered up the chimney.

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|----|---|----|---------------|
| 1  | Mike is a man <u>after my own heart</u> .         | a) | accompaniment |
| 2  | I went to London <u>with her</u> .                | b) | cause/reason  |
| 3  | Linda is the girl <u>next to the door</u> .       | c) | instrument    |
| 4  | He worked <u>until 10 o'clock</u> .               | d) | manner/means  |
| 5  | He hit him <u>with a hammer</u> .                 | e) | material      |
| 6  | She talked <u>about her work</u> .                | f) | purpose       |
| 7  | This is the chemical <u>for killing weeds</u> .   | g) | similarity    |
| 8  | He bought a ring <u>of pure gold</u> .            | h) | space         |
| 9  | Prices rose <u>because of inflation</u> .         | i) | time          |
| 10 | The work was done <u>in the most sloppy way</u> . | j) | topic         |

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## Adjective Phrases

Adjective phrases, as we have already said, function as adjectives — the head of an adjective phrase is an adjective. The head may carry both pre- and postmodification. Premodification, as usual, is simpler and takes the form of individual words, frequently modifiers:

She is —  $\left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{very} \\ \text{highly} \\ \text{fairly} \\ \text{pretty} \end{array} \right]$  — intelligent.

In this example the adjective phrase is postmodifying a verb phrase, but the same adjective phrase can occur within a premodified noun phrase:

She is —  $\left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{very} \\ \text{highly} \\ \text{fairly} \\ \text{pretty} \end{array} \right]$  — intelligent student.

There is a group of adjectives which, it is sometimes said, cannot be premodified (perfect, superb, unique, dead). The objection to premodifying such adjectives is a prescriptive one (some people said object to almost perfect, pretty unique) but they can, in fact, all be premodified by adverbs of degree such as absolutely, completely, or totally.

Postmodification can take several forms in adjectival phrases — a prepositional phrase (I am afraid of the dark), an infinitive clause introduced by to (I am afraid to ask him), or a clause introduced by that (I am afraid that I've hurt his feelings). Note that the that clause is a form of relative clause and so, once again, we can employ a reduced relative (I am afraid I've hurt his feelings). However, not all adjectives can be postmodified in all of these ways.