“The Gift of the Magi” by O. Henry

Build Grammar Skills: Adverb Phrases

An adverb phrase is a prepositional phrase that acts as an adverb. It modifies a verb, an adjective, or an adverb by pointing out where, when, in what way, or to what extent.

**Adverb Phrases:**
- They were happy in their home.
- Jim stared at Della’s hair.

The adverb phrase in their home modifies the adjective happy and tells where. The adverb phrase at Della’s hair modifies the verb stared and tells where.

**A. Practice:** Underline the adverb phrases in the following sentences from “The Gift of the Magi.”

1. Della finished her cry and attended to her cheeks with the powder rag.
2. Suddenly she whirled from the window and stood before the glass.
3. It reached below her knee and made itself almost a garment for her.
4. She was ransacking the stores for Jim’s present.
5. Della wriggled off the table and went for him.

**B. Writing Application:** Use each prepositional phrase as an adverb phrase in a sentence of your own.

1. after the party
2. during the film
3. into the garage
4. from the stereo speakers
5. on the table

6. around the lake

7. near the desk