Theoretical background

The typical constituent appearing in the post-copular position of a copular clause is normally an adjective phrase or a noun phrase:

- John is very intelligent
- John is a teacher

But we can also have a prepositional phrase (PP) in this position:

- John is on his high horse

A PP occurring in this position will very often be a MWU, having many semantic characteristics in common with a simple adjective or an adjective phrase.

Following Danlos (1988), Gross (1996) and Machonis (1988), we will consider the copula of such clauses as a "support verb", and the PP as a prepositional predicate.
Formal characteristics and classification of the BE PREP C MWUs

The \textit{BE PREP C} structure contains \textbf{three basic components}:

- (1) the verb \textit{to be} (\textit{BE})
- (2) a preposition (\textit{PREP})
- (3) a complement (\textit{C})

The complement may

- be determined by an ADJ, ex.:
  \textit{dobrą[ADJ]} + \textit{datą[N]} in: \textit{być pod dobrą datą} in Polish
- or another prepositional complement, ex.:

Each of the components may accept other expansions which make possible a \textbf{form-based classification of the BE PREP C constructions}. 
Dictionaries of MWUs using the DELAF formalism (example)

de retour,.A+EPC/TEN tilbake TEP z powrotem; (='(be) back')

en place,.A+EPC/TEN på plass TEP w toku; (='(be) there')

à la mode,.A+EPC/TEN på moten TEP w modzie; (='(be) in fashion')

à la limite,.A+EPDETC/TEN på grensen TEP na krawędzi (='(be) on the edge')

à portée de la main,.A+EPCDC/TEN innen rekkevidde TEP na wyciągnięcie ręki (='(be) at your fingertips')

de bonne humeur,.A+EPAC/TEN i godlag TEP w dobrym humorze (='(be) in a good mood')