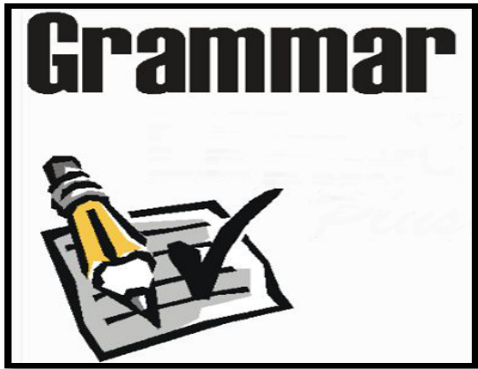


The use of noun and verb phrases

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Noun phrases:

Noun phrases are made up of a noun and all its modifiers. It functions in a sentence as a subject, an object or even a complement. Some noun phrases begin with an infinitive (to tell) and some with a gerund (telling).



In simpler words, a noun phrase refers to a group of words that play the role of a noun. Also, like all phrases, a noun phrase does not have a subject and a verb.

Let's take a look at a few examples that will help understand the meaning and use of a noun phrase better!

Examples:

1. Normal noun: The cat could not jump off the wall.

Noun phrase: The stout cat could not jump off the wall.

2. Normal noun: Return the book back to the library.

Noun phrase: Return the book back to the ancient library.

Exercise:

Identify which of the following is a noun phrase:

1. Green salad is a popular lunch here.
2. That boy wasn't worth the fun.
3. I love it when I stare blankly into the blue skies.
4. When would the ice cream man come?
5. The jeep failed to cross those murky waters.

Answers:

Noun phrases: 1, 3 and 5.

Verb phrase:

A verb phrase basically consists of a main verb as well as one or more helping verbs, its complements and objects. In simpler words, in [English grammar](#), a verb phrase is a verb which is more than one word. This means that it includes one or more than one helping verb along with a main verb.

<u>Sentence</u>	<u>Verb Phrase</u>
Have you been sitting in my chair?	have been sitting
Do you know Goldilocks?	do know
No. I don't know her.	do know

Examples:

1. Normal verb: She cycled quickly to school.

Verb phrase: She was cycling quickly to school.

2. Normal verb: These coins are worth hundreds of Rupees.

Verb phrase: These coins may be worth hundreds of Rupees.

Exercise:

Identify which of the following is a verb phrase:

1. My mother fixed us some dinner.
2. The professor is writing a report.
3. Those girls didn't try very hard.
4. You woke up everybody in the neighborhood.
5. Rita might eat the cake.

Answers: 2, 5.

When making an attempt towards learning a language, grammar is an automatic add on. Hence, you'll need to learn and understand all the aspects of both writing as well as [speaking in English](#). It is crucial for you, at first, to start with the basics further proceeding to the intermediate level. Make sure to be a dedicated and self-motivated learner as nothing else could help take your spoken English skills to new heights.



It is an understood fact that learning English grammar could get a little confusing and difficult. Hence, it is best for you to enroll in an [English teaching course online](#) to help you get a better and more efficient understanding of the English language and all it holds. So, all the best for your [English learning](#) journey and ensure to keep an ongoing practice by reading, writing exercises, attending English teaching sessions and much more.

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- By Chander Madan

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