

## **Phrases**

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# What is a Phrase?



A phrase is a group of words that act as a single part of speech and does not contain both subject and verb. It includes a head (head word) that determines the type or nature of the phrase. It is part of a sentence but a complete thought is not expressed.

The phrase is read or spoken as a unit and separated by pauses. It is intended to have a meaning.

## **Example:**

- An entirely new generation has emerged since the eighties.
- Passing the exam was a major achievement to him and me.

Some common examples are, pick it up, move out, show off etc.

# **Types of Phrases**

There are eight kinds of phrases.

- 1.
- Noun Phrase
- 2 Verb Phrase
- 3. Adjectival Phrase
- 4. Adverbial Phrase
- 5. Gerund Phrase
- 6. Prepositional Phrase
- 7. Participial Phrase
- 8. Infinitive Phrase

### **Noun Phrase**

This is a string of words that depend in some way on a single <u>noun</u>. The words can be added before or after the noun. The main word is the noun.

Noun phrases can include any words, but particularly often uses determiners and otheradjectives which appear before the noun.

#### Example:

- The children that were playing just left.
- The men that I saw walking in have started work.

#### **Verb Phrase**

This consists of the verb and all related <u>helping verbs</u>. They function as single word verbs to express action or to link <u>subject</u> and <u>complement</u>.

#### **Example:**

- I have been working on this project and know the problems well.
- Shehas been telling me about him for years

## **Adjectival Phrase**

These phrases either expand noun phrase or complete the verb. An adjective is often modified by an adverb.

#### **Example:**

- They bought a house, two years back.
- The king is a man ofstrong values.

#### **Adverbial Phrase**

This is a group of related words which play the role of an adverb.

#### **Example:**

- Sita decided to move to Jaipur in May last year.
- They behaved in anuncultured manner.

#### **Gerund Phrase**

This is just a noun phrase with a gerund (verb that functions as a noun) at its head. It is a verb with a 'ing' ending that functions as a noun.

#### **Example:**

- The weeping of women made Jim very impatient.
- · Mina's singing always enthralls the class.

#### **Prepositional Phrase**

This phrase starts with a preposition such as in, at, by, for, to, over etc. They have a noun or a pronoun object and may also have other modifiers. They function as adjectives, adverbs or nouns.

#### **Example:**

- After dinner, he went home.
- I listened to Beethovenon the radio.

### **Participial Phrase**

These phrases are formed from participles (participles are formed from verbs and end in ing or ed). They function as objective and often describe the subject of the sentence.

#### **Example:**

- The lawyer looked for a moment and turned away.
- Running fast, she soon reached home.

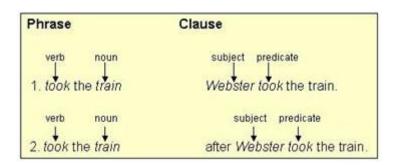
#### **Infinitive Phrase**

This is formed from an infinitive or other related word. An infinitive is the word 'to' follow by a verb. This type of phrase, functions as a noun, adjective or an adverb.

#### **Example:**

- He went to an university to study Law.
- She wantedto see the Taj Mahal but did not know where it was.

#### What is the difference between a Phrase and a Clause?



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## **Reference Links:**

- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phrases
- http://grammar.about.com/od/pq/g/phrase.htm
- http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/phrases.htm
- http://englishplus.com/grammar/00000014.htm
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