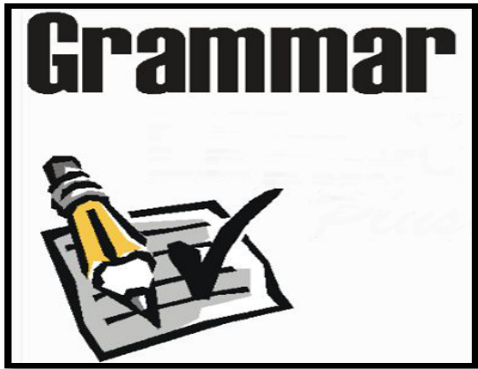


# The use of noun and verb phrases

Created: Wednesday, 12 February 2014 09:49 | Published: Sunday, 16 February 2014 14:28 | Written by [Chander Madan](#) | [Print](#)

## 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 <b>been sitting</b> in my chair?	<b>have been sitting</b>
Do you <b>know</b> Goldilocks?	<b>do know</b>
No. I <b>don't know</b> her.	<b>do know</b>

## 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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