

# Chapter 2

## Phrases

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- A phrase is a group of words without both a subject and predicate.
- Phrases combine words into a larger unit that can function as a sentence element.

For example, a participial phrase can include adjectives, nouns, prepositions and adverbs; as a single unit, however, it functions as one big adjective modifying a noun (or noun phrase).

Eg. The girl *in the pink lacy dress* is my sister

The girl *in the shocking pink and delicately lacy dress* is my sister

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*shocking pink and delicately lacy* --adjectival phrase

*the shocking pink and delicately lacy dress*-- noun phrase

*in the shocking pink and delicately lacy dress* -- prepositional phrase

Prep.---noun---adjectival phrase----like a nest of boxes....one inside the other.

# TYPES OF PHRASES

## Noun Phrase

A noun phrase consists of a noun and all of its modifiers, which can include other phrases (like the prepositional phrase 'in the park').

Eg. "*The crazy old lady in the park* feeds the pigeons every day."

- **Appositive Phrase** - An appositive (single word, phrase, or clause) renames another noun, not technically modifying it.

Eg. Bob, *my best friend*, works here.

Riya, *the love of my life*, is going to london next week.

We *the people of this country* want to get rid of corruption.

- **Gerund Phrase** - A gerund phrase is just a noun phrase with a gerund as its head.

Eg. I love *baking cakes*.

- **Infinitive Phrase** - An infinitive phrase is a noun phrase with an infinitive as its head. Unlike the other noun phrases, however, an infinitive phrase can also function as an adjective or an adverb.

Eg. I love *to bake cakes*.

*His next door neighbour snoring loudly* woke him up.

Can be condensed into someone woke him up.

So in order to identify a noun phrase we should be able to substitute the entire phrase with someone \ something. Ask 'what' to the verb and the answer would be someone \ something.

Eg. *Joining a karate class* was the solution to all his problems.

*To get to a phone booth at night* is impossible near my house.

## Adjective Phrase

Adjectival phrases can either refer to a group of adjectives (full of toys) or any phrase (like a participial or prepositional phrase) that acts as an adjective.

Eg: Bill Gates is *a man of great wealth*.

The girl *in the pink lacy dress* is my sister.

Ask who\which to the noun and the answer would be the phrase.

Who is my sister?-- the description of the girl--that particular girl.

Adjectival phrases often begins with a preposition. The function of the phrase as an adjective makes it an adjectival phrase.

## Adverbial Phrases

The adverbial phrase is either a group of adverbs (very quickly) or any phrase (usually a prepositional phrase) that acts as an adverb.

**Types of adverbs--MTP3CsR--** Question the verb

Manner -- ask how to the verb.

Egs. He congratulated me *by shaking my hands*.

He drove away *without stopping his car*.

Rama ran *with great speed*.

Time -- When?

Eg. I started playing the piano *at the age of seven*.

I will have my lunch *on arrival*.

## Place -- Where?

Eg. I will meet you *near the mall*.

The meeting is *at Ram's school*.

## Condition

If you study hard, you will succeed. The use of 'if' makes it a clause.

To make it a phrase we need to use by+ing+adj / without + ing.

Eg. *Without studying hard* you cannot succeed.

*By working hard* you can succeed.



## Concession

Although he worked hard, he did not get a job. --- Clause

To convert it into a phrase we need to use despite/ in spite of + ing

Eg. *In spite of working hard* he did not get a job.

*Despite working hard* he did not get a job.

## Consequence / Purpose

I am going to study medicine therefore I have to work hard----- Clause

To convert it into a phrase we need to use to+verb

Eg. I need to work hard *to become a doctor*.

## Reason

He broke the vase because he was careless ---clause

To convert it into a phrase we need to use 'by + being/doing/having or due to + noun'

Eg. He broke the vase *by being careless* / clumsy.

He broke the vase *due to his carelessness* / clumsiness.

Clause -- She fell because she tripped on her dress.

She fell *by tripping on her dress*.

## Absolute Phrase

A phrase with a subject and a partial predicate of its own is called an absolute phrase. It is a group of words without the subject-verb combination, modifies or gives more details about the main clause of the sentence. It acts as a cause or a reason of the main clause.

Eg : *My cake finally baking in the oven*, I was free to rest for thirty minutes.

It always starts with a noun or noun phrase and is offset using a comma.

Almost a clause, the absolute phrase can include every sentence element except a finite verb.

For example, "My cake finally baking in the oven" would be its own sentence if you just added one finite verb: "My cake was finally baking in the oven."

Egs. *Her brother coming from China*, she is jumping with joy.

*The wedding fixed*, everyone is happy.

*Our boss shouting in anger*, all the team members started working fast.

Absolute phrases can be converted into subordinate clauses or even into complex sentences.

## **Verbless Phrase**

A phrase that contains no element of verb is called a verbless phrase.

Eg: *When young*, Blunt the donkey was a champion.

**Participial Phrase** - A participial phrase has a past or present participle as its head. Participial phrases always function as adjectives.

Eg. *Crushed to pieces by a sledgehammer*, the computer no longer worked.  
I think the guy *sitting over there* likes you.

**Prepositional Phrase**- A prepositional phrase, which has a preposition as its head, can function as an adjective, adverb, or even as a noun.

Eg: The boy *with him* is his son.  
The store *at the corner* sells sandwiches  
The food *on the table* looked delicious.