

# 24



## PHRASES

[Special stress on the use of NP (Sub) + Verb + NP + Infinitive; NP (Sub) + Verb + NP + Adj./Adv.; Verb + NP with 'how to' construction in the New Syllabus in Madhyamik level in Bangladesh to be introduced from the year 2005.]

Read the following sentences :

- (i) This is a gold chain.
- (ii) This is a golden chain.
- (iii) This is a chain made of gold.
- (iv) This is a chain which is made of gold.



All these sentences make the same meaning, but there is a difference of formation of the underlined words.

- (i) 'gold chain' is a group of words (Noun + Noun) without any finite verb. It acts as a unit of group; so it is a phrase. Here it acts as a Noun; so it is a Noun Phrase (NP).
- (ii) 'golden chain' is also a group of words (Adjective 'golden' takes a Noun 'chain') without any finite verb. But it is a natural construction of Adjective and Noun, not a unit of group. So it is not a Phrase.
- (iii) 'made of gold' is a group of words without a finite verb and it acts as a unit of group. Moreover, it qualifies the preceding word 'chain'. Hence it is an Adjective Phrase.
- (iv) 'which is made of gold' is also a group of words but it has a finite verb 'is'. Hence it is a Clause, not a Phrase.

So we can say :

**A Phrase is a group of words which acts as a unit of group and which has no finite verb.**

[ Phrase হল এমন একক শব্দগুচ্ছ যার কোনো finite verb বা সমাপিকা ক্রিয়া নেই। ]

**A Clause is a group of words that has a finite verb.**

[ Clause হল এমন শব্দগুচ্ছ যার একটি finite verb বা সমাপিকা ক্রিয়া আছে। ]

**Phrases are of eight kinds (Phrase আট প্রকার।) :**

### PHRASES

**NOUN PHRASE**

**ADJECTIVE PHRASE**

**ADVERBIAL PHRASE**

**PREPOSITIONAL PHRASE**

**PARTICIPIAL PHRASE**

**PHRASE IN APPosition**

**ABSOLUTE PHRASE**

**PARENTHETICAL PHRASE**

## NOUN PHRASES

Read the following sentences :

- (i) The man wants something. [(Sub) + (Verb) + Noun]
- (ii) The man wants something to eat. [(Sub + Verb) + NP + Infinitive]
- (iii) Fatima took her supper. [(Sub + Verb) + Noun]
- (iv) Fatima took her supper early. [(Sub + Verb) + NP + Adverb]
- (v) Praising is a good virtue. [Noun as Sub + Verb]
- (vi) Praising all is equal to praising none. [NP + Verb + Adjective + NP]
- (vii) Mr. Ali showed his student a computer. [(Sub + Verb) + Noun]
- (viii) Mr. Ali showed his student how to assemble a computer. [with 'how to']



In each of the above pairs of sentences, we first have a *single Noun* and then a group of words extending the same.

In the first sentence '*something*' is a **Noun** and it is the object of the verb '*wants*'. In the second sentence '*something to eat*' is also the object of the verb '*wants*'. But it is a group of words and it acts as a Noun. It is, therefore, a **Noun Phrase**. In the fourth sentence '*her supper early*' is also the object of the verb '*took*'. But it is a group of words and acts as a Noun. So, it is a **Noun Phrase**. In the fifth sentence '*praising*' is a **noun** and it is the subject of the verb '*is*'. In the sixth sentence '*praising all*' is also the subject of the verb '*is*'. But it is a group of words and it acts as a Noun. Hence it is a **Noun Phrase**. In the eighth sentence '*how to assemble a computer*' is also a **Noun Phrase**.

**A Noun Phrase is a group of words that acts as Noun. It may be a Subject or Object/Complement of a verb.**

[Noun Phrase হল এমন শব্দগুচ্ছ যা Noun হিসেবে কাজ করে। এটি কোনো ক্রিয়ার কর্তা বা কর্ম/কর্মসূন্নতি হতে পারে।]

—P. C. Das

Read the following Nouns and Noun Phrases.

<b>Nouns</b>	<b>Noun Phrases</b>
Cricket is a good game.	Playing cricket is the style of the day.
Reading is a good habit.	Have you enjoyed reading this novel?
Your bed is ready.	Early to bed is a healthy habit.
Any prize is a prestigious thing.	To win a prize is not an easy task.



**Note : A Noun Phrase includes the process of using Infinitive, Verbal Noun and Gerund as subject or object/complement.**

## ADJECTIVE PHRASES

Read the following sentences :

- (i) A boy met me yesterday.
- (ii) A boy with blue eyes met me yesterday.
- (iii) He tells a tale.
- (iv) He tells a tale with the ring of truth in it.

In the first and third sentences, we have a *Single Noun* (a person or a thing), and in second and fourth sentences we have a *group of words describing that person or thing*. These group of words act as an *Adjective* and are, therefore, **Adjective Phrases**.

So we can say :

**An Adjective Phrase is a group of words that acts as an Adjective for qualifying a noun or pronoun. It may be in the Subject part or in the Predicate part.**

[Adjective Phrase হল এমন শব্দগুচ্ছ যা কোনো noun বা pronoun-কে qualify করার জন্য Adjective হিসেবে কাজ করে। এটি উদ্দেশ্য খণ্ডে থাকতে পারে, আবার বিধেয় খণ্ডেও থাকতে পারে।]

—P. C. Das

Read the following Adjectives and the Adjective Phrases that are same in meaning. (নীচে Adjective এবং তার সমার্থক Adjective Phrase-গুলি পড়ো।) :

Adjectives	Adjective Phrases
A blank page.	A page with no writing on it.
A heavy load.	A load of great weight.
A black coat.	A coat of black colour.
A golden crown.	A crown made of gold.
A white elephant.	An elephant of white colour.
A jungle track.	A track through the jungle.
The Indian flag.	The flag of India.

### ADJECTIVE PHRASES

Read the following sentences :

- (i) The horse runs fast/quickly.
- (ii) The horse runs with great speed.
- (iii) He behaved rudely.
- (iv) He behaved in a rude manner.



In the first and third sentences, we have a single Adverb and in second and fourth sentences we have a group of words modifying in the same way. These group of words in second and fourth sentences act as an Adverb and are, therefore, **Adverbial Phrases**.

So we can say :

**An Adverbial Phrase is a group of words that acts as an Adverb. It may generally modify a verb, an adjective or another adverb denoting manner, place or time.**

[Adverb Phrase হল এমন শব্দগুচ্ছ যা সাধারণত কোনো verb, adjective বা অন্য কোনো adverb-এর ধরন, স্থান, সময় বোঝাতে Adverb হিসেবে কাজ করে।] —P. C. Das

Read the following Adverbs and the Adverbial Phrases that are same in meaning : (নীচে Adverb এবং তার সমার্থক Adverb Phrase-গুলি পড়ো।)

Adverbs	Adverbial Phrases
<b>Manner</b>	
bravely	<i>in a brave manner/with bravery.</i>
carefully	<i>with care.</i>
carelessly	<i>without any care.</i>
fast/quickly	<i>with great speed.</i>
beautifully	<i>in a beautiful style.</i>

	<b>Adverbs</b>	<b>Adverbial Phrases</b>
<b>Place</b>	here	at this place/on this spot.
	there	at that place/on that spot.
	away	to another place.
	abroad	to (in) a foreign country.
	everywhere	in all places.
<b>Time</b>	now	at this very moment.
	then	at that time/moment.
	soon	before very long/at an early date.
	formerly	in former times/once upon a time.
	recently	at present/at a recent date.

**Position of Adverbs / Adverbial Phrases :** When there are two or more Adverbs or Adverbial Phrases after a verb, the normal order is Adverb of **Manner**, **Place** and **Time**—MPT. Soma sang sweetly in the town hall last evening.

(Manner) (Place) (Time)

**Note :** An **Adverbial Phrase** includes some **Adverbs with Prepositions** called **Adverbials** that modify a verb, an adjective or another adverb.

### PREPOSITIONAL PHRASE

Read the following sentences :

- (i) (a) He is ill. (b) He still works.
- (ii) In spite of his illness, he works.
- (iii) (a) He made a promise. (b) He kept it also.
- (iv) Besides making a promise, he kept it.



In sentence (ii) 'In spite of' and in sentence (iv) 'Besides making' are groups of words beginning with a Preposition and act as a unit other than a Noun Phrase, an Adjective Phrase or Adverb Phrase. Such Phrases are called **Prepositional Phrases**.

[উপরের বাক্যগুলির মধ্যে দ্বিতীয় বাক্যে 'In spite of' এবং চতুর্থ বাক্যে 'Besides making' এমন শব্দগুচ্ছ যা একটি Preposition দিয়ে শুরু হয়েছে এবং একটি Noun Phrase, Adjective Phrase বা Adverb Phrase থেকে কিছুটা আলাদা রাখের একক হয়েছে। এগুলিকে Prepositional Phrase বলা হয়।]

**Note :** Some Adjective Phrases and Adverbial Phrases also begin with a Preposition. But such an Adjective Phrase qualifies a Noun and such an Adverb Phrase modifies a Verb, Adjective or another Adverb, while a purely Prepositional Phrase keeps its main force on Preposition construction. However, in a broader sense, Prepositional Phrases include Adjective Phrase beginning with a preposition, Adverb phrase beginning with a preposition and a purely Prepositional Phrase with its main force on preposition.

### PARTICIPIAL PHRASE

Read the following sentences :

- (i) Hearing a noise, the boy woke up.
- (ii) Driven by hunger, he stole a piece of bread.
- (iii) Having rested a while, we continued our journey.



In sentence (i) 'Hearing a noise', in sentence (ii) 'Driven by hunger' and in sentence, (iii) 'Having rested a while' are **Participial Phrases**. These Participial Phrases are formed by a Present Participle or a Past Participle or a Perfect Participle.

[উপরের sentence-গুলির মধ্যে প্রথম বাক্যে 'Hearing a noise', দ্বিতীয় বাক্যে 'Driven by hunger' এবং তৃতীয় বাক্যে 'Having rested a while' এমন শব্দগুচ্ছ যা একটি Participle-কে কেন্দ্র করে তৈরি হয়েছে। এগুলিকে Participial Phrase বলা হয়। এরকম Participal Phrase একটি Present Participle অথবা Past Participle অথবা Perfect Participle দিয়ে গঠিত হয়।]

### PHRASE IN APPosition

Read the following sentences :

- (i) (a) Shrila is my sister. (b) She is seriously ill.
- (ii) Shrila, my sister, is seriously ill.
- (iii) (a) Tom is my faithful dog. (b) I like him.
- (iv) I like Tom, my faithful dog.

In sentence (ii) 'Shrila' and 'my sister' are the same person. In sentence (iv) 'Tom' and 'my faithful dog' are the same animal. The two groups of words 'my sister' and 'my faithful dog' are placed in apposition to the Noun 'Shrila' and 'Tom'. They are, therefore, **Phrases in Apposition**.

[উপরের বাক্যগুলির মধ্যে দ্বিতীয় বাক্যে 'Shrila' এবং 'my sister' আর চতুর্থ বাক্যে 'Tom' এবং 'my faithful dog' একই ব্যক্তি বা একই প্রাণীকে বোঝাচ্ছে। সেজন্য এই group of words-গুলিকে **Phrase in Apposition** বলা হয়]

### ABSOLUTE PHRASE

Read the following sentences :

- (i) (a) It was a holiday. (b) We went out for a picnic.
- (ii) It being a holiday, we went out for a picnic.
- (iii) (a) The war broke out. (b) The prices rose high.
- (iv) The war having broken out, the prices rose high.



In sentence (ii) 'It being a holiday' and in sentence (iv) 'The war having broken out' are Nominative Absolute denoting the interdependence of these groups of words with the main parts of the sentences. Such groups of words of interdependence with separate subject and without finite verb are called **Absolute Phrases**.

[উপরের বাক্যগুলির মধ্যে দ্বিতীয় বাক্যে 'It being a holiday' আর চতুর্থ বাক্যে 'The war having broken out' ওই দুই বাক্যের প্রধান অংশের শর্ত স্থির করে দিলেও ওই দুটি group of words-এর আলাদা subject আছে, অথচ finite verb নেই। এরকম group of words-কে **Absolute Phrase** বলা হয়।]

### PARENTHETICAL PHRASE

Read the following sentences :

- (i) He is, after all, an honest man.
- (ii) I, to tell the truth, don't like this.



In each of the above examples, there are phrases thrown into the body of sentences without any structural relation between the phrase and the other part of the sentence. Such phrases are called **Parenthetical Phrase**.

[উপরের উদাহরণগুলিতে বাক্যের মধ্যে এমন একটি করে phrase বসানো হয়েছে যার সঙ্গে বাক্যের অন্য অংশের গঠনগত কোনো সম্পর্ক নেই। এরকম phrase-কে **Parenthetical Phrase** বলা হয়।]

### EXERCISE

#### 1. Pick out the Noun Phrases in the following sentences :

- (i) I hope to win the first prize.
- (ii) To win a prize is my ambition.

- (iii) He likes getting people into trouble.
- (iv) He dislikes having to punish his servants.
- (v) Shila invited her friends to join her birthday party.
- (vi) She was happy to greet all her friends.
- (vii) He refuses to answer the question.
- (viii) She denied stealing the money.
- (ix) To write such rubbish is disgraceful.
- (x) Thinking good thoughts precedes good actions.
- (xi) Travelling in a crowded train can show you the present condition of the railway system.
- (xii) Standing about in cold wind causes cough and cold.



**2. Fill in the blanks with suitable Noun Phrases :**

- (i) I do not expect.....
- (ii) I don't intend .....
- (iii) My father hates .....
- (iv) My brother loves .....
- (v) ..... surprised my mother.
- (vi) ..... gives me no pleasure.
- (vii) ..... is not so easy.
- (viii) His sister promised .....
- (ix) ..... is disgraceful.
- (x) The poor debtor .....

**3. Pick out the Adjective Phrases in the following sentences :**

- (i) The Selfish Giant lived in a house built of stone.
- (ii) Acharya P. C. Roy was a man with a kindly nature.
- (iii) He is a person of very considerable renown.
- (iv) Swami Vivekananda wore a turban made of saffron silk.
- (v) He was a man of great versatility.
- (vi) Nobody likes a man with a bad temper.
- (vii) Biman is a man with plenty of impudence.
- (viii) He is a man without a friend.
- (ix) He carried a sword stained with blood.
- (x) They came to a path covered with mud.



**4. Replace the following italicized Adjective Phrases by Adjectives :**

- (i) M. P. Birla is a man *of great wealth*.
- (ii) None should throw stones, who lives in a *house built of glass*.
- (iii) I like to see a *face with a smile on it*.
- (iv) *Wild beasts in small cages* are a sorry sight.
- (v) He is a *man without a friend*.
- (vi) I met a little *girl from a cottage*.



- (vii) She was a *girl of great promise*.
- (viii) The boys bore a banner of *strange device*.
- (ix) The police arrested a man of *one of the criminal tribes*.
- (x) In a low voice he told the tale of *his silly mistakes*.

**5. Replace the following italicized Adjectives by Adjective Phrases :**

- (i) A *grassy* meadow stretched before us.
- (ii) I have passed a *sleepless* night.
- (iii) He is a *professional* cricketer.
- (iv) Mr. Roy is a *wealthy* man.
- (v) Do you know which is the *longest* day in a year?
- (vi) The poor beggar dwelt in a *wooden* hut.
- (vii) How did he get such a *valuable* thing?
- (viii) Lalu prefers an *earthen* pot for taking tea.
- (ix) Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose is a *fearless* person.
- (x) I admit that he is a *sensible* man.

**6. Pick out the Adverbial Phrases in the following sentences :**

- (i) I stood under a great banyan tree.
- (ii) He lived in the middle of a forest.
- (iii) He fought to the last in the face of all obstacles.
- (iv) He has painted it in proper colours.
- (v) The gun went off with a loud sound.
- (vi) The shepherd shouted at the top of his voice.
- (vii) He tried with all his might to escape from the trap.
- (viii) It must be done at any cost.
- (ix) He has his finger on the pulse of the nation.
- (x) Honesty is written on her face.



**7. Replace the following italicized Adverbial Phrases by Adverbs :**

- (i) Horses run *with great speed*.
- (ii) You can buy it *in all places*.
- (iii) Go *to that spot* and pay your fees.
- (iv) Stop writing *from this very moment*.
- (v) At *that moment* the queen arrived.
- (vi) These posts are *without reserve*.
- (vii) He has proved his fitness *to our satisfaction*.
- (viii) I hope that you will come *at a very early date*.
- (ix) This picture has not been painted *in the proper way*.
- (x) He earns his living *by writing poems*.
- (xi) He shouted *at the top of his voice*.
- (xii) It has been done *in an unwise manner*.



**8. Replace the following italicized Adverbs by Adverbial Phrases :**

- (i) Do your homework *carefully*.
- (ii) The bodies in the ill-fated bus were mangled *terribly*.
- (iii) In the afternoon the wind blew *violently*.

- (iv) Formerly he worked in a private company.
- (v) The news has come to us recently.
- (vi) He expects to get promotion soon.
- (vii) The children are playing cheerfully.
- (viii) The soldiers fought for the country bravely.
- (ix) She binds her hair beautifully.
- (x) He is preparing his best to go abroad.
- (xi) He seems to have acted properly.

**9. Pick out the Phrases to say whether they are Noun Phrases, Adjective Phrases or Adverbial Phrases :**

- (i) The accident occurred on this spot.
- (ii) He left the place at that moment.
- (iii) The cottage on the island was washed away.
- (iv) I expect your answer at an early date.
- (v) Cease-work is withdrawn from this very moment.
- (vi) Is this the train to Bangalore?
- (vii) The Headmaster announced the holiday in a loud voice.
- (viii) He speaks like a born orator.
- (ix) I do not expect such treatment at your hands.
- (x) She gained our affection in spite of her many faults.

**10. Pick out the Participial Phrases and say whether they are formed by a Present Participle or a Past Participle or a Perfect Participle :**

- (i) Hearing the noise, he rushed towards the spot.
- (ii) Seeing him fall from the tree, I ran to him.
- (iii) Loudly knocking at the gate, he asked admission.
- (iv) Deceived by his friends, he lost all hope.
- (v) Blinded by a dust-storm, they lost their way.
- (vi) Sitting on the gate, he was rebuked by the teacher.
- (vii) Entering the room, I found the dazzling light.
- (viii) Walking in the field, I saw a dead cow.
- (ix) Frankly speaking, he is not fit for the job.
- (x) Considering his abilities, he should have done better.
- (xi) Having rested a while, we started our work again.



**11. Pick out the phrases to say whether they are phrases in Apposition, an Absolute Phrase or a Parenthetical Phrase :**

- (i) Maradona, a good player, was suspended.
- (ii) The dinner being over, the party left the place.
- (iii) Iqbal, a Punjabi poet, wrote many good poems.
- (iv) Benaras (Varanasi), the city of temples, stands on the Ganga.
- (v) Frankly speaking, I cannot admit your conduct.
- (vi) It being a very hot day, we could not start our journey.
- (vii) You are, to speak the truth, a scoundrel.
- (viii) Akbar, the great emperor, was secular among the Muslim emperors.

**12. Join the following pairs of sentences by using a Noun Phrase :**

[A Noun Phrase includes the process of using *Infinitive*, *Verbal Noun* and *Gerund* as subject or object/complement.]

- (i) The boy wants to eat. He wants something.
- (ii) He is very weak. He cannot walk.
- (iii) He has two sons. He has to teach them.
- (iv) He has a cycle. He wishes to sell it.
- (v) She works hard. She wants to pass the examination.
- (vi) Early to bed is a good habit. It should be followed.
- (vii) Swimming is a good exercise. Do you enjoy it?
- (viii) We play cricket. We enjoy it.

**13. Join the following pairs of sentences by using an Adjective Phrase :**

[An Adjective Phrase includes some Prepositional phrases and Participles that qualify a Noun.]

- (i) He was tired. He rested for a while.
- (ii) He saw me come. He ran away.
- (iii) The workers belong to a tribe. They are dwelling in the hills.
- (iv) This is an axe. It is made of iron.
- (v) There is a bird in the hand. It is worth two in the bush.
- (vi) He told a tale. It was about his cruel deeds.
- (vii) He tells a tale. There is a ring of truth in it.
- (viii) Here is a boy. He is a boy of great promise.
- (ix) He wore a turban. It is made of silk.
- (x) He has done a deed. It is a deed of shame.



**14. Join the following pairs of sentences by using an Adverbial Phrase :**

[An Adverb Phrase includes some Adverbs and Prepositions called Adverbials that modify a Verb, an Adjective or another Adverb.]

- (i) The train was late. That was usual.
- (ii) She spoke the truth. She did not fear at all.
- (iii) He fought alone. He was not helped.
- (iv) He returned home. It was evening.
- (v) The dead bodies were mangled. It was in a terrible manner.
- (vi) Let us cease work. It should be from the very moment.
- (vii) They succeeded. Their success came in the long run.
- (viii) The wind blew. It blew with great violence.
- (ix) He has proved his case. It is to my satisfaction.
- (x) He may come. It may be at an early date.



**15. Join the following pairs of sentences by using a Prepositional Phrase :**

[A Prepositional Phrase begins with a Preposition and puts the main force on Preposition construction.]

- (i) He won the prize. He could do it *by dint of* hard work.
- (ii) He got the award. It was possible *by means of* hard labour.

- (iii) He succeeded at last. It was possible *by virtue of* continuous labour.
- (iv) He sacrificed his life. He did it *for the sake of* his country.
- (v) Call the Fire Brigade. You may do it *in case of* fire.
- (vi) He told me this. He told it *in course of* conversation.
- (vii) He is waiting. He is standing *in front of* the school.
- (viii) They went to the jungle. They went there *in search of* a deer.
- (ix) He was poor. Still he donated a considerable amount in the fund for the flood-stricken people.
- (x) The Headmaster welcomed the visitors. He did it on behalf of the school.



**16. Join the following pairs of sentences by using a Phrase in Apposition :**

- (i) Alexander was a powerful king. He invaded India.
- (ii) Ashoka was a great king. He loved his people dearly.
- (iii) Akbar was the greatest Mughal emperor. He was secular among the Muslim rulers.
- (iv) Kalidas wrote 'Shakuntala'. It is a play in Sanskrit.
- (v) Bishnupur is a town of temples. It is situated in West Bengal.

**17. Join the following pairs of sentences by using an Absolute Phrase :**

- (i) The sun rose. The fog dispersed.
- (ii) The fog dispersed. The soldiers began to march.
- (iii) The rain fell. The crops revived.
- (iv) The sun set. We returned to our house.
- (v) The war broke out. The prices rose high.
- (vi) The bell rang. The students entered their class.
- (vii) The treatise failed. The war broke out.
- (viii) It was very hot. We could not get out of home.
- (ix) It was a holiday. We went out for a picnic.
- (x) The loadshedding occurs frequently. Business is suffering.

