



Phrases

A **phrase** is a group of words that does not contain both a subject and a predicate. It contains either a subject or a predicate, so a phrase does not function as an independent unit.

A **prepositional phrase** is a group of words that begins with a preposition (Ex: near, through, into, over, on) and ends with a noun or pronoun.

Ex: *The brief meeting will be held [near the coke machine] [on the third floor of the LC].*

An **adjective phrase** is a phrase that is used to modify a noun. An adjective phrase answers the following questions: "Which one?" "What kind?"

Ex: *Bob likes hot chocolate with whipped cream. Tom likes the backpack on the top shelf.*

An **adverbial phrase** is a prepositional phrase that is used to modify a verb, an adjective, or an adverb. It answers the following questions: "Where?" "When?" "Why?" "How?" "To what extent?"

Ex: *Lily found her notebook under her bed. Jill wanted to fly like an eagle.*

An **appositive phrase** is a phrase that embodies a noun or pronoun that identifies or explains another noun or pronoun.

Ex: *Heather, Jill's younger sister, is wearing new shoes.*

Verbal Phrases include participial phrases, infinitive phrases, and gerund phrases. Each verbal phrase contains a verb form that is used as a noun, an adjective, or an adverb.

- A **participial phrase** is a phrase containing a verb form that is used as an adjective.

Ex: *The Smiths keep all of their [broken toys and stuffed animals] in the basement.*

- An **infinitive phrase** is a phrase containing a verb form that usually begins with "to." It may be used as a noun, an adjective, or an adverb.

Ex: *Kelly likes **to hike** during the summer.* [noun]

*The best way **to survive** a tornado is to take shelter.* [adjective]

*Todd's family was eager **to start** the surprise party.* [adverb]

- A **gerund phrase** is a phrase that embodies a verb form that is used as a noun. Gerunds end in "ing."

Ex: ***Eating too much ice cream** makes children sick.*