



Types of Phrases in English

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ABSTRACT

This article deals that, the usage of phrases in English due to the level of students in primary and high schools. There are given types of phrases with examples by using practical in grammar structures.

Keywords:

Group of words, modifying, function, grammatical component, noun phrase, adjective phrase, adverb phrase, verb phrase, prepositional phrase.

Introduction:

There are several types of phrases in English grammar. A **phrase** is a group of words that form what the dictionary calls 'a conceptual unit' (an idea contained in a few words). Phrases normally form parts of clauses. A phrase is not a sentence on its own. The important thing to not is that phrases do not make sense on their own as they do not have a **subject and predicate**.

What are the different types of phrases?

Noun phrase

Adjective phrase

Adverb phrase

Verb phrase

Prepositional phrase

A noun = a word that is used to name something, such as an object, place, person, idea etc. For example, 'desk', 'city', 'woman', 'love'.

An adjective = a word that describes a noun or pronoun. For example, in the sentence "the cat is grey", the adjective is 'grey' and it is used to describe the noun (the cat).

A verb = a word that describes an action or state. For example, in the sentence "the teacher writes on the board" the verb is 'writes' as it indicates the action. In the sentence "the ball is rolling down the hill", the auxiliary verb 'is' indicates the tense of the sentence, and the main verb 'rolling' expresses the action.

An adverb = a word that describes a verb, adjective, another adverb or a whole sentence. For example, in the sentence "she walks slowly" the adverb is 'slowly' as it adds information about the verb. In the sentence "he is really tall", the adverb is 'really' as it adds information about the adjective.

A preposition = a word or group of words that indicate where things are in relation to one another. This can refer to direction, time, location and spatial relationships. For example, words like 'on', 'in', 'under', 'over', 'before', 'after'.

Noun phrase

A noun phrase is a group of words that consists of a noun (or pronoun eg. he, she, it) and other words that modify the noun. Modifiers can refer to articles (a/an/the), quantifiers (some, a lot, a little), demonstratives (this, that, those),

possessives (his, her, their), adjectives or adverbs.

Noun phrases are used to give more information about a noun. They can function as the subject, object or complement of a sentence.

Noun phrase examples

Here are some examples of the types of phrases known as noun phrases.

In the sentence:

“Your black cat is always outside.”

The noun phrase is

“Your black cat.”

It is used to add detail to the sentence, by indicating the subject (cat) and describing it (a cat that is black and belongs to someone).

Adjective phrase

An adjective phrase (also known as an adjectival phrase) is a type of phrase which is a group of words that consists of an adjective and other words that modify or complement it. Adjective phrases have the purpose of an adjective and are used to describe or add more detail to a noun/pronoun. They can come before or after a noun.

Adjective phrase examples

Here are some examples of adjective phrases.

In the sentence

“The man with short hair is running in the park.”

The adjective phrase is

“Short hair.”

Adverb phrase

An adverb phrase (also known as an adverbial phrase) is a group of words that consists of an adverb and often other modifiers. They have the function of an adverb in a sentence and are used to modify verbs, adjectives and other adverbs. They can appear before or after the elements they modify.

Adverb phrase examples

Here are some examples of adverb phrases.

In the sentence:

“I go to the gym every weekend.”

The adverb phrase is:

“Every weekend.”

Verb phrase

A verb phrase is a group of words that consists of a head (main) verb and other verbs such as copular verbs (verbs that join the subject to the

subject complement ie., seems, appears, tastes) and auxiliaries (helping verbs ie., be, do, have). It can also include other modifiers. A verb phrase has the function of a verb in a sentence.

Verb phrase examples

Here are some examples of verb phrases.

In the sentence:

“Dave was walking his dog.”

The verb phrase is:

“Was walking.”

Prepositional phrase

A prepositional phrase is a group of words that consists of a preposition and an object. It can also include other modifiers, but these are not essential. A prepositional phrase can either act as an adjective or adverb in a sentence. It is used to modify nouns and verbs and gives information about the relationships between subjects and verbs.

Prepositional phrase examples

Here are some examples of prepositional phrases.

In the sentence:

“The rat runs into the box.”

The prepositional phrase is:

“Into the box.”

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