

A Research project
On
A Glance On Phrases

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Submitted to

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Shripatrao Kadam Mahavidyalaya, Shirwal

April 2023

Certificate

This is to certify that Miss Wankhede Priti
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successfully.

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INTRODUCTION

No doubt you have noticed that our discussion of parts of speech required us to consider the phrases they occurred in. Although traditional grammars often treat word classes apart from their roles in larger structures, it is really not possible to do so. For one thing, we cannot study a word's functions without viewing it in a larger setting. For another, a single word may constitute a phrase. For instance, a noun phrase may contain just a noun—its head. Likewise, a verb phrase may contain just a verb. Phrases, then, are units of one or more words. They are the lowest syntactic unit.

It is important for us to know about phrases and to be able to distinguish them from words and clauses. This knowledge is essential in at least the two following situations.

Journeyman writers often produce **fragments**, that is, parts of sentences punctuated as if they were sentences. These fragments are rarely just random strings of words; rather, they are typically internally grammatical. They are in fact phrases. Fragments are objected to because they are not the type of expression that more experienced writers would use in the context. They are often a reflection of linguistic patterns used in speech and indicate that the writer has not yet mastered the stylistic differences between the spoken and written modes.

Languages differ in the orders they impose on sequences of words. For example, in English (and many other languages), adjectives typically precede the nouns they modify, whereas in Spanish (and many other languages), adjectives typically follow the nouns they modify. Language learners must learn the orders expected in the target language. Their teachers must know the ordering possibilities and be able to articulate them in ways their students can learn from.

Definition of a Phrase

A phrase, according to the Oxford Learner's Dictionary, is defined as "a group of words without a finite verb, especially one that forms part of a sentence." According to the Cambridge Dictionary, a phrase is defined as "a group of words that is part of, rather than the whole of a sentence." The Collins Dictionary defines a phrase as "a short group of words that people often use as a way of saying something. The meaning of a phrase is often not obvious from the meaning of the individual words in it." It is also defined as "a small group of words which forms a unit, either on its own or within a sentence." The Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines a phrase as "a word or group of words forming a syntactic constituent with a single grammatical function."

Phrases

A phrase is a group or combination of two or more words. It is a unit of a complete sentence. By itself, a phrase is not a complete sentence, as it does not relay a complete thought. It does not contain the subject and the predicate both, so it is not a clause either.

The length of the phrase may differ from two words to many more words. This does not have any connection to whether it is a phrase or a sentence.

For example "old dog" is a phrase. So is "the old, smelly, shivering dog" is also a phrase.

- Types of Phrase
 - Adjective Phrase
 - Adverbial Phrase
 - Noun Phrase
 - Prepositional Phrase
 - Gerund Phrase
 - Infinitive Phrase
 - Participle Phrase
 - Appositive Phrase

1. Noun Phrase:

A Phrase that acts like a noun in the sentence is called a noun phrase. A noun phrase consists of noun and other related words which modify the noun. A noun phrase works maybe as a subject and object, or a compliment.

For examples-

Early to bed early to rise is good habit

Early to bed is called a noun phrase. And it works as a subject in this example.

Here **bed** is a noun and **early to** other related words which modify or give specific information about the noun **bed**. These words are called tree modifiers because they go before the head word **bed**. Remember verbs that go after the head word are all post modifiers.

Example:

1. People **inside**.
2. The girl **at the door**.

2. Verb Phrase:

A Verb Phrase is a combination of main verb and its auxiliaries within a sentence.

For example:

1. **She is waiting** for Rakesh

She is waiting is a verb phrase. As it contains a main verb waiting and a helping verb is. So it is simply called a verb phrase.

2. Shamik are trying very hard.

The main verb try combined with the helping verb are and form of verb phrase.

3. Adjective phrase:

An adjective phrase is a group of words that acts like an adjective in a sentence. It describes or adds to the meaning of the noun or pronoun.

For example:

The boy Neeraj Chopra **from our country** won a gold medal.

From our country is an adjective phrase, and it modifies the noun boy.

Observe the next two examples-

1. My teacher is **angry** on me.
2. The teacher **that seems very angry** on me.

What is the difference between these two sentences? The meaning is same in these two examples but the first sentence has an adjective **angry**. And the second sentence has an adjective phrase that **seems very angry**, and it modifies the noun teacher.

4. Adverb Phrase:

An adverb phrase is a group of words that functions like an adverb in a sentence. It modify or adds to meaning of a verb and adjectives, or another adverb. An adverb phrase is used to show, or give information about how, why, Where and when something happens.

Examples:

1. She was crying **very loudly**.

Here the adverb phrase **very loudly** modifies the verb crying, means it adds to meaning of the verb crying. The adverb phrase very loudly emphasizes how she was crying? very loudly

2. The boy play **on the playground**.

The adverb phrase **on the playground** modifies the verb play. Where the boy play? On the playground.

5. Prepositional Phrase:

A prepositional phrase mostly begins with a preposition and ends with an object of a preposition. That is a noun, Pronoun, gerund or clause.

Example:

1. We drove **to the store**.

To the store is a prepositional phrase. It begins with a preposition to and ends with an object of the preposition store.

2. The dog is sitting **under the table**.

The phrase **under the table** started with a preposition under and ends with an object of the preposition table.

6. Gerund Phrase:

Gerund phrase consisting of Gerund 'ing' form of the verb, modifiers and other related words associated with the Gerund. In a sentence a Gerund phrase functions like a noun and can act as a subject and object, or it can act like a predicate nominative.

Example:

Smoking cigarettes is not permitted in the public area.

Smoking cigarettes is a Gerund phrase and it works as a subject here. It includes a gerund smoking ing form of the verb smoke.

7. Infinitive Phrase:

An infinitive phrase is made up of an infinitive to + base form of the verb, modifiers or other related words associated to the infinitive. It always functions like a noun, an adjective or an adverb within a sentence.

For Examples:

1. Shamik loves **to play football**.

Here an infinitive phrase **to play football**, preceded by an infinitive **to**, and it functions like a noun. If an infinitive phrase functions like a noun, it answers the question, 'what'. What does Shamik love? He loves to play football.

2. I wish I had a friend **to play with me**.

An infinitive phrase **to play with me** functions like an objective here, and it modifies or describes the noun **friend**.

3. **To see clearly**, he moved closer to the stage.

Conclusion

The phrase in conclusion means "finally, to sum up," and is used to introduce some final comments at the end of a speech or piece of writing. The phrase jump to conclusions means "to come to a judgment without enough evidence." A foregone conclusion is an outcome that seems certain.

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