



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 the phrase does not function as an independent unit.

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

Example: The brief meeting will be held **near the coke machine on the third floor of the Learning Center.**

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

Example: I like hot chocolate **with whip cream.**

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

Example: I found my notebook **under my bed.**

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

Example: Heather, **my sister**, is wearing my sweater.

Verbal Phrases include participial phrases, infinitive phrases, and gerund phrases. Each 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.

Example: We keep all of our **broken toys** 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.

Example: I like **to hike and swim** during the summer.

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

Example: **Eating too much ice cream and cake** makes me sick.