

## Lecture: Grammar-Level: 2<sup>nd</sup> year

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Group: 06

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## Phrases

### Definition

A phrase is a group of related words within a sentence that complements the overall structure of a sentence. A phrase lacks both the subject and the object. Hence, a phrase cannot stand alone to give complete meaning.


The phrase can act as a noun, an adjective, a preposition or an adverb. The function of a phrase depends upon its construction and place in a sentence.

### Types of phrases

There are many different kinds of phrases, you find them summarised in the table below:

The types of phrases	examples
<u>The noun phrase:</u> acts like a <b>noun</b> in a sentence. It contains a noun and other associated words (usually determiners and modifiers) which modify the noun. A noun phrase consists of a noun as a head-word and other related words may come before or after the noun.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• She bought <u>a decent black shirt</u> (as a noun: <u>object</u>)</li><li>• <u>One of our close relatives</u> bought <u>a beautiful car</u> (as a noun: <u>subject</u>, and <u>object</u>)</li></ul>
<u>The prepositional phrases:</u> are made of a preposition and a noun or a pronoun, and they function as adjectives or adverbs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The cake <u>with nuts</u> fell <u>onto the floor</u> '<i>With nuts</i>' is a <b>prepositional phrase</b> that is acting as an <u>adjective</u> because the word '<i>with</i>' is branching off the noun <i>cake</i>. And adjectives modify nouns and pronouns. '<i>Onto the floor</i>' is a <b>prepositional phrase</b> that is acting as an <u>adverb</u> because the word '<i>onto</i>' is branching off the verb <i>fell</i>. Adverbs modify verbs, adjectives or other adverbs</li></ul>
<u>Phrasal verbs:</u> are made of a main verb and at least one helping verb, functioning all together as a single verb.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• She <u>must have jumped</u> across the stream. '<i>Must and have</i>' are helping verbs. '<i>Jumped</i>' is the main verb</li></ul>

## Lecture: Grammar-Level: 2<sup>nd</sup> year

<p><u>Appositive phrases</u>: and appositive is a noun that renames another noun or pronoun. This type of phrases consists of the appositive and all of its modifiers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ann, <u>my sister with dark hair</u>, sang a song. ‘<i>Sister</i>’ is the appositive renaming ‘<i>Ann</i>’, and ‘<i>my sister with dark hair</i>’ is the appositive phrase.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Verbals</b>: the following three phrases (gerund, participles, and infinitives) are called verbals because they are formed from verbs, yet, they don’t function as verbs.</p>	
<p><u>Gerund phrases</u>: are formed from verbs, but function as nouns (verb+ing).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I like <u>swimming in lakes</u>. ‘<i>Swimming in lakes</i>’ is a gerund phrase functioning as a <b>direct object</b> of the verb ‘<i>like</i>.’</li> <li>• <u>Carrying of a baby</u> disturbed me a lot. ‘<i>Carrying of a baby</i>’ is a gerund phrase functioning as a <b>subject</b>.</li> </ul>
<p><u>Participle phrases</u>: is a group of a present participle (verb+ing) or a past participle, modifiers and other linked words. It is punctuated with a comma or commas and always acts as an adjective (modifying a noun) in a sentence. This type of sentences is also included under <b>the absolute phrase</b> category</p>  <p><u>The absolute phrase</u>: is also called the <b>nominative phrase</b>. It consists of a noun or a pronoun, a participle (as mentioned above) and linked modifiers. It looks like a clause but lacks true finite verb. It is separated by comma or commas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The students, <u>raising their hands</u>, need extra pages ( <b>present participle</b>: modifies the noun <i>students</i>)</li> <li>• She got a mail, <u>mentioning about her exam</u>. (<b>Present participle</b>: modifies the word <i>mail</i>).</li> <li>• The chair, <u>made of plastic</u>, looks very beautiful (<b>past participle</b>: modifies the word <i>chair</i>).</li> <li>• She looks very much happy, <u>her face expressing a shine of happiness</u> (<b>pronoun</b> + linked modifiers).</li> <li>• He, <u>having anger in his eyes</u>, met his enemy (<b>participle</b> + linked modifiers... already explained above).</li> </ul>
<p><u>Infinitive phrases</u>: act as nouns, adjectives or adverbs. They begin with to + a verb. Sometimes ‘<i>to</i>’ is implied.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I swore <u>to tie my shoes tighter in the future</u>. ‘<i>To tie my shoes in the future</i>’ is an <b>infinitive phrase</b> functioning as <b>the direct object</b> of the verb ‘<i>swore</i>’.</li> <li>• The government made a plan <u>to help the poor</u>. ‘<i>To help the poor</i>’ <b>an adjective</b> modifying the noun: ‘<i>plan</i>’.</li> </ul>