Types of Phrases

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

Example:

 I saw a joker in the street.

A 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. Depending upon its function in a sentence, phrases are divided into various types: Noun Phrase, Verb Phrase, Adjective Phrase, Adverb Phrase, Gerund Phrase, Infinitive Phrase and Absolute Phrase.



# NOUN PHRASE

A phrase that acts like a noun in the sentence is called a Noun Phrase. It contains a noun & other associated words (usually determiners & modifiers) which modify the noun.

A noun phrase comprises of a noun as a head-word and other related words (determiners & modifiers) may come before or after the noun. The entire phrase serves as a noun in a sentence.

Noun Phrase = noun + modifiers (or determiners) Examples:

 They hired a huge beautiful home. (as noun: object)

 She bought a decent black shirt. (as noun: object)  One of our close relatives never drinks coffee. (as noun: subject)

 A woman in the window shouted for help. (as noun: subject)

A sentence can also consist of more than one noun phrase. Example:

 One of our close relatives bought a beautiful red car. (as nouns both as subject & object)

# PREPOSITIONAL PHRASE

A phrase comprising a preposition and object of preposition (noun or pronoun) is called a prepositional phrase. It may also contain other modifiers.

*e.g. near a wall, on a table, in the room, under a tree, at the door etc* Prepositional phrase has a noun or pronoun which called the object of preposition. Examples:

The kids were laughing at the joker. He is sleeping on the carpet.

 The teacher looked at the black-board.  He drives the car in a high speed.

 He always speaks in a loud voice.



# ADJECTIVE PHRASE

A phrase that acts likes an adjective in a sentence is called adjective phrase. Like an adjective it modifies (adds to meaning of) a noun or a pronoun. It comprises of adjectives, modifiers and other words modifying the noun or pronoun.

 She bought a beautiful brown chair. (modifies noun: chair)

# ADVERB PHRASE

A phrase that acts like an adverb in a sentence is called adverb phrase. Like an adverb, it modifies (add to meaning of) a verb or other adverb in the sentence. It contains an adverb and other words (i.e. noun, preposition, modifiers) which, as a whole, act as an adverb phrase.

Examples:

 The racer was running very fast. (modifies verb: run)

# VERB PHRASE

A verb phrase is the group of main verbs and helping-verbs (auxiliaries) within a sentence. Examples:

She is writing a letter

He has taken his annual exam.

 Students must reach in time for the class.

 They have been playing game since morning.  She is waiting for someone.

