### Types of Construction

### Phrase

### A **phrase** is a group of words that form a conceptual unit' (an idea contained in a few words). A phrase is not a sentence on its own. phrases do not make sense on their own as they do not have a **subject and predicate**.

### Types of Phrases

### 1. Noun Phrase

A **noun phrase** is usually assembled centering a single noun and works as a subject, an object or a complement in the sentence.

**Examples:**

* I like to swing the bat hard when I am at the crease. (An object)
* Reading novels is a good habit. (A subject)
* The probability of happening that match is not much. (A subject)
* We are sorry for her departure.
  1. ***Verb Phrase***
* A verb phrase is any number of verbs working together:
* Had been sleeping  
  Will contact  
  May have written
* Verb phrases often contain adverbs that change the meaning of the phrase:
* Has **never** lost  
  May **not** trespass  
  Am **always** looking
* As the last example shows, verb phrases may include verbals (*looking*is a present participle), but a verbal by itself is not a verb.

**3. Adjective Phrase**

An **adjective phrase** is comprised of an adjective and works as a single adjective in the sentence.

**Example:**

* Alex is a well-behaved man.
* He is a man of friendly nature.
* Julie is a woman of gorgeous style.
* She leads a very interesting life.
* A lot of people do not sleep at night.

**4. Adverbial Phrase**

An **adverbial phrase** modifies the verb or the adjective and works as an adverb in the sentence.

**Example:**

* The horse runs at a good speed.
* I was in a hurry then.
* I ran as fast as possible.
* He works very slowly.

**5. Prepositional Phrase**

A **prepositional phrase** always begins with a preposition and connects nouns. It ends with a noun or pronoun (and its modifiers) that is called the object of the preposition:

Through the wheat field

Preposition: through

Object of the preposition: the wheat field

**Example:**

* He sacrificed his life for the sake of his country.
* In the end, we all have to die.
* He is on the way.
* By working aimlessly, you will not get success.
* In spite of working hard, he was insulted by his boss.

**Note:**Prepositional phrases include all other types of phrases.

**6. Conjunctional Phrase**

A **conjunctional phrase** works as a conjunction in the sentence.

**Example:**

* As soon as you got in, he went out.
* We have to work hard so that we can win the next match.
* I will attend the ceremony provided that you come.
* John started working early in order that he could finish early.

**7. Interjectional Phrase**

Interjections that have more than one words are called the **interjectional phrases**.

**Example:**

* What a pity! He is dead.
* What a pleasure! I won the first prize.
* Oh please! Don’t say that again.

***8. Verbal Phrases***

* There are three types of verbal phrases: participial phrases, gerund phrases, and infinitive phrases. Each is explained below.

**8.1. *Participial Phrase***

* Participial phrases start with either a present or past participle. Here are some examples of each.
* **Phrases with present participles:**
* Lounging by the pool  
  Chasing a butterfly  
  Watching silently
* **Phrases with past participles:**
* Struck by lightning  
  Driven to succeed  
  Loaned out
  1. ***Gerund Phrase***
* A gerund phrase is a present participle (and its modifiers) that acts like a noun. It can take on a variety of jobs in the sentence. Here are a couple of examples:
* **Practicing** helped a lot. (subject)  
  I love **reading**. (direct object)
  1. ***Infinitive Phrase***

An infinitive phrase is the infinitive and its modifiers:

To sing  
To walk all that way  
To mix peanut butter and jam

The infinitive phrase can also function in various ways:

**To give** to charity is a noble thing. (subject)

The neighbours have promised **to stop** playing the drums at night. (direct object)

1. ***Appositive Phrase***

An appositive phrase is a phrase that renames an earlier noun or pronoun:

My best friend, **Nick Palacio**, loves scuba diving.  
We watched Sirius, **the brightest star in the sky**.

In these examples, the appositive is a noun phrase. But you can use other phrases as appositives too:

My dream, **to make it to the NBA**, is what keeps me going. (infinitive phrase)

Matthew’s special talent, **bouncing on his head on the trampoline**, gives him a unique perspective on life. (participial phrase)

Appositives are great for inserting some extra information in a sentence.

1. ***Absolute Phrase***

Absolute phrases are the trickiest to identify. These phrases are not closely connected to the rest of the sentence; they don’t describe a specific word, but modify the whole sentence. They add extra information and are usually separated by commas (or dashes).

At the heart of an absolute phrase you will find a noun or pronoun and some modifiers. Very often the modifier is a participle:

The tide coming in, most beach goers were packing up.

Absolute phrase: The tide coming in.

Here are some more examples:

The semester finished, Karen sold all her textbooks.

Absolute Phrase: The semester finished.