**PHRASES**

**Exercise 1: Identifying Adjective Phrases and the Words They Modify**

The following sentences contain adjective phrases. Identify each adjective phrase and the word it modifies.

EXAMPLE 1. If you are a rafting enthusiast, you might enjoy a trip to New Guinea, a large island in the East Indies. -🡪 to New Guinea—trip; in the East Indies—island

1. A series **of nearly continuous rapids** crisscrossed jungles **of primeval beauty.**

2. The twenty-eight major rapids **on the Tua River make** it a course **for rafters** *with experience and courage*.

3. Brilliantly coloured butterflies brighten the riverbanks, and the metallic whine **of cicadas** almost completely covers the roar **of the river.**

4. The banks are a chaos **of tumbled boulders** **and uprooted trees.**

5. Beautiful tropical forests **along the way** blanket the mountains **above the river.**

6. However, rafters don’t have much chance **for sightseeing.**

7. They can’t pay much attention **to anything** **except the swirling water** **around their rafts**.

8. Do you enjoy moments **of high adventure**?

9. Wouldn’t you love a trip **down this wild** **river** **in the South Pacific.**

**Exercise 2: Identifying Adverb Phrases and the Words They Modify**

Each of the following sentences contains at least one adverb phrase. Identify each adverb phrase and the word or words it modifies.

EXAMPLE 1. From the map at right, you can clearly tell the function of the Panama Canal. --🡪From the map at right—can tell.

1. The canal, which is fifty-one miles long, links the Pacific Ocean **to the Atlantic Ocean.**
2. **On the canal’s elaborate series of locks,** which raise and lower the water levels, ships can travel **from ocean to ocean**.
3. Construction of the canal, an engineering marvel, began **in 1904** and continued **until 1914**.

Naturally, the builders faced many obstacles **during the canal’s construction.**

1. Mosquitoes posed a major health risk **throughout the area** and had to be eliminated.
2. **For the duration of the canal project,** Dr. William C. Gorgas, an army surgeon, fought the mosquitoes.
3. **With great efficiency,** he drained swamps, fumigated buildings, and installed a pure water supply.
4. **After the resignation of two chief engineers,** President Theodore Roosevelt **in 1907** appointed Army Lieutenant Colonel George W. Goethals chief engineer.
5. Goethals, active **in all phases of canal construction,** quickly gained the respect of workers.
6. This photograph shows some of the workers who dug **through the mountains along the Isthmus of Panama**.

**Exercise 3: Identifying Adjective and Adverb Phrases**

Identify each prepositional phrase in the following sentences. Then, tell whether it is an adjective phrase or an adverb phrase.

EXAMPLE 1. The clay in bone china has actually been blended with bone ash. 🡪 in bone China—adjective phrase; with bone ash—adverb phrase

1. Tito, jump off and coil a line *around that piling.*

2. A large mirror reflected the light **from the window.**

3. Men **in that part** **of the world** commonly wear turbans, which protect their hair *from sand.*

4. *Without a password,* you cannot access the network.

5. Why do such small differences **between people** sometimes seem so large *to the people themselves?*

6. *According to this source*, the merger will take place later this week.

7. Hot corn bread muffins **in the shape of fish** tumbled *out of the cast-iron pan.*

8. Dozens **of small framed photographs** stood *on the mantel* **over the fireplace**.

9. *Between the radiator and the engine*, a large boa constrictor was taking a nap.

10. In England, the rear storage compartment **of a car** is called the “boot,” not the “trunk.”

**Exercise 4**: Identifying Participial Phrases and the Words They Modify

Each of the following sentences contains at least one participial phrase. Identify each participial phrase and the word or words it modifies.

EXAMPLE 1. Living far from the city, I developed an interest in nature at an early age.

-🡪 Living far from the city—I

1. All of the students **trying out for the soccer team** have heard from the coach or her assistant.

2. **Thanking us several times,** the piano teacher returned the chairs **borrowed for the recital**.

3. Today’s newspaper, **printed last night,** made no mention of the president’s announcement.

4. **Annoyed by the high prices**, Mr. Sims has decided not to shop at that store anymore.

5. **Addressing the senior class,** the principal praised all of the students for their work on the clean-up campaign.

6. **Having studied hard,** Karen did well on both the Spanish test and the calculus quiz.

7. The movies **showing at that theatre** are ones **released before 1940**.

8. **Cheered by the crowd**, our school’s Special Olympics team rushed onto the field.

9. **Looking through the catalogue**, Earl found a Cajun cookbook.

10. **Smiling shyly,** Lynn showed us the pictures she had taken.

**Exercise 5:** Identifying Gerund Phrases and Their Functions

Identify the gerund phrase in each of the following sentences, and tell whether it is used as a subject, a predicate nominative, a direct object, an indirect object, or an object of a preposition.

EXAMPLE 1. Learning to type has been one of my most practical accomplishments. 🡪 Learning to type—subject

1. Give **traveling by rail** a try. **Indirect OBJ**

2. Sylvia’s method of **making decisions** reveals a great deal about her. **Prep Obj**

3. My grandparents enjoy **practicing their square-dance routines.** **Obj**

4. Before **making changes**, please notify our secretary, Ms. Erikson. **Prep Obj**

5. Ms. Sanapaw finished **writing her paper. Obj**

6. **Producing a movie for Mr. Matsuyama’s cinematography course** requires organization and communication. **Subj**

7. One habit that is very bad for teeth is **chewing ice. Com**

8. **Dropping two cannonballs of different sizes from the Leaning Tower of Pisa** may have proven to Galileo that falling objects travel at the same speed, whatever their masses. **Subj**

9. Hector earns money on the weekends by **giving guitar lessons. Prep Obj**

10. My brother’s **singing in the shower early in the morning** annoys me. **Subj**

**Exercise 6:** Identifying Infinitive Phrases and Their Functions Identify each infinitive phrase or infinitive clause in the following sentences as a noun, an adjective, or an adverb. If a phrase is used as a noun, tell whether it is the subject, the direct object, or the predicate nominative. If the phrase is used as a modifier, give the word it modifies.

EXAMPLE 1. I like to compose music for the guitar. -🡪1. to compose music for the guitar—noun, direct object

1. **To win an Olympic medal** is the dream of every member of the women’s ski team. Sub

2. The candidate had the courage **to speak on a controversial issue. Adj**

3. We went to Italy **to see our grandparents**. Adv

4. The Latin and French clubs try **to work together on projects. Obj**

5. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., believed that all U.S. citizens should be free **to exercise their civil rights. Adv**

6. Louis Pasteur experimented for many years **to discover a method for preventing rabies. Adj**

7. The ability **to speak distinctly** is an advantage in job interviews. **adj**

8. **To open the box** required a hammer and a crowbar. sub

9. Alana’s hobby is **to spend hours each day developing original computer programs. Com**

10. Marvella, please help me **learn about photography. Obj**

**Exercise 7:** Identifying Appositives and Appositive Phrases

Identify the appositive or appositive phrase in each of the following sentences.

EXAMPLE 1. The sapling, a variety of oak, will grow rather slowly.--> 1. a variety of oak

1. The design**, a complex pattern of interlocking knots,** ran all the way around the door.

2. Look out; their cat, **a Siamese,** hates visitors.

3. **Elsa is visiting her oldest brother,** Joseph, in Ohio.

4. Dan’s dog, **a border collie**, came running up to greet him.

5. A small animal**, a hare,** had been carved in the lid of the wooden chest over there.

6. **One of only three in existence today,** this folio remains in the possession of the British Museum.

7. “Have you ever read the poem ‘**Ozymandias**’?” Sergio asked.

8. **A gift from his grandfather,** the silver-and-turquoise ring was never off his finger.

9. She wore a long, flowing gown tied with an obi, **the traditional Japanese sash.**

10. What I need is a job, **an entry-level position with a good chance of advancement**.