

The rooster is crowing.
subject → verb

My friend loves dogs.
subject verb object

Phrases



What is a phrase?

A **phrase** is a group of two or more words that does not make a complete sentence.

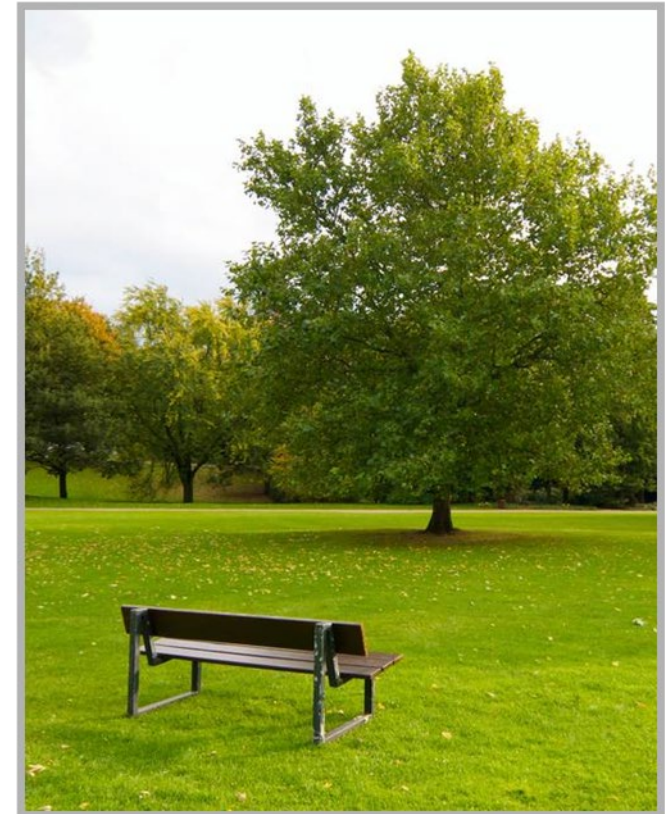
For example: **to the park**

Why isn't this a complete sentence?

Because it is not a complete thought.

What is it missing?

- A **subject** (the main noun of a sentence)
- A **verb** (the main action of a sentence)



Add a subject and a verb to the phrase 'to the park' to make it into a complete sentence.

What is a phrase?

A phrase is not just *any* group of words.

For example, 'the over baseball' is not a phrase because it has no meaning!

the muddy baseball is a phrase.

over the fence is a phrase.

The words in a phrase have to be linked together so that they have some grammatical meaning.



Can you make the phrases 'the muddy baseball' and 'over the fence' into sentences?

Is it a phrase?



Do you know what the purpose of a phrase is?

Phrases add information to sentences.

There are different types of phrases depending on what the function of the phrase is in the sentence.

These are all types of phrases:

noun phrase

verb phrase

adjectival phrase

prepositional phrase

adverbial phrase

Do you know which types of phrase 'to the park' and 'the muddy baseball' are?

One of the easiest ways to identify the type of phrase being used is to identify the **headword** of the phrase.

The headword is the word around which the phrase is built. It is the most important word in the phrase.

Noun phrases have a **noun** as the headword:

sickeningly sweet chocolate cake

Verb phrases have a main **verb** as the headword:

had been sleeping



Prepositional phrases have a **preposition** as the headword:

under the table



A **noun phrase** is a set of words built up around a single noun.

For example, you could write, 'the baby', or you could write:

- 'the cute baby'
- 'the chubby baby'
- 'the cute and chubby baby'
- 'the happy, chubby baby'
- 'the happy, smiley baby'.

These are all noun phrases.
Notice how they all have the same headword, the noun 'baby'.



Build up three different noun phrases around a noun of your choice.



An **adjectival phrase** is a group of words built up round an adjective. We use adjectival phrases to describe nouns in a sentence more thoroughly.

For example, you could use the adjective 'cold' to describe a day: It is a **cold** day.

Or instead, you could use one of these adjectival phrases in the sentence:

- It is a **very cold** day.
- It is a **cold and rainy** day.
- The day is **unbelievably cold**.
- The day is **cold, gray and drizzly**.



Notice how the adjectival phrase can come before or after the noun it describes.

There is often not much difference between an adjectival phrase and a noun phrase. Look at the following example:

He gave her a beautiful red rose.

- **'beautiful red'** is an **adjectival phrase** with the adjective 'red' as the headword.
- **'beautiful red rose'** is a **noun phrase** with the noun 'rose' as the headword.

Can you identify the adjectival phrase and the noun phrase in this sentence?



The hot sunny day stretched out before me.

Choose the adjectival phrase



Verb phrases are made up of a **main verb** (the headword), and **auxiliary verbs**.

For example: **The girl had been sleeping.**

auxiliary verbs

main verb

Here are some more verb phrases.

Can you use each one in a sentence?

could have gone

would have had

is crying

should have been



Using verb phrases allows us to be more specific about actions. For example, what is the difference between saying 'I might go' and 'I will go'?

An **adverbial phrase** is a group of words used to describe an **adverb** by adding words before or after it.

For example, you could use an adverb to describe how a thief crept up the stairs:

The thief **slowly** crept up the stairs.

Or you could use an adverbial phrase:

The thief crept slowly and carefully up the stairs.

adverbial phrase

Incredibly slowly, the thief crept up the stairs.

adverbial phrase



Adverbial phrases tell us more about how actions are done.

Look at this sentence: **The girl painted a picture.**

If we want to show that the girl is a good painter, we could add an adverbial phrase:

The girl painted a picture so beautifully.

Ever so skilfully, the girl painted a picture.



Try adding adverbial phrases to these sentences to show the qualities indicated in the parentheses.

- He climbed the mountain. **(He is a good climber.)**
- I slept. **(It was a bad sleep.)**
- He opened the door. **(He was very afraid of opening it.)**

Prepositions give us information about place, direction or time. For example: **'in'**, **'on'**, **'to'**, **'at'**, **'with'**, **'under'**, **'over'**.

Prepositions normally come in phrases. The phrase begins with a preposition (the headword) and ends with a **noun** or a **pronoun**.

For example: on the chair

preposition

noun



Here are some more prepositional phrases:

in the bag

on Friday

over the moon

to the park

in five minutes

beside him

Write five sentences using some of these phrases.

Spotting prepositional phrases



Which type of phrase?



Writing phrases activity

Use each noun phrase below as a starting point for a sentence that uses a variety of other phrases, including **verb**, **adjectival**, **adverbial** and **prepositional** phrases.

E.g. The parrot is very colorful and is sitting on a perch.

noun phrase

adjectival phrase

verb phrase

prepositional phrase

1. The carnival _____

2. Tim's skateboard _____

3. The teacher _____

4. School vacations _____

5. Alysha's bike _____

