

III B.A. English SEMESTER V Unit III Grammar
Phrases and Sentences

What is a phrase?

A phrase is a small group of words standing together as a unit to make meaning. A phrase is not a complete **sentence** because it is not a complete idea with a subject, verb and a predicate. It does not have both a subject and a verb or a subject and a predicate.

Example: **The brown hat** was blowing away **in the wind**.

In a **phrase**, the main word is called the head (word) and the head (word) describes the meaning of the **phrase**. In the following phrases, each underlined word is the 'head' and tells the meaning of the particular phrase.

- ... at school
- ... in the pocket
- ... on the table
- ... by the wall
- ... near the temple
- ... sharp eyes
- ... bad temper
- ... serious mood

Types of phrases

1. Noun Phrase

A noun phrase consists of a noun and its modifier or modifiers. In noun phrases the noun in the phrase will be the head word.

Examples: There is a doggy in the window .

His behaviour tells his character.

2. Adjective phrase

An adjective phrase is a group of words headed by an adjective that modifies a noun. The adjective phrases will have the adjective as the head word.

Example:

1. The villain had a cruel face.
2. My father is immensely proud of me.

3. Adverbial phrase

An adverbial phrase is a group of words that functions as an adverb. An adverb is will say the quality of a verb or how the action is done.

Examples:

1. He is singing in a low voice.

2. We arrived just in time.

4. Prepositional Phrase

A prepositional phrase is a group of words that consists of a preposition. The noun or a pronoun in the prepositional phrase is its object.

Examples:

1. Our family lived near the temple.
2. What is the cost of the doll in the window?
3. We can see peacocks on our way.

5. Gerund phrase

A gerund phrase is a phrase that consists of a gerund. The gerund phrase will also act as the modifier.

Examples:

1. Walking fast is a rewarding practice.
2. Without leaving your shoes don't enter my room.

6. Infinitive phrase

An infinitive phrase is the infinitive form of a verb plus any complement and modifier. Infinitive phrases will have 'to infinitive' (to + verb) as a modifier in sentences.

Examples:

1. I have asked him to work hard.
2. It is a good practice to forgive even our enemy.
3. We have to undergo several hardships in our life.

7. Participle Phrase

A participle phrase is an adjective phrase headed by a participle. The participle phrase is different from a gerund phrase when it has a present participle (-ing form).

Examples:

1. Coming out with disappointment the man shouted at his friends.
2. The dog chasing the hare ran very fast.
3. Overcome with danger my friend felt very much happy.

Appositive Phrase

An appositive is a noun or a noun phrase that sits next to another noun to describe it in another way.

Examples:

Read aloud.
All the best!
Write fast.
Don't read fast.

Types of sentences:

There are THREE types of sentences. They are (1) **Simple** sentence, (2) **Complex** sentence and (3) **Compound** sentence.

1. Simple sentence:

A simple sentence is a sentence with a **subject** and a **verb**. A simple sentence has a complete thought.

Examples: 1. Joe waited for the train.
2. The train was late.

2. Compound sentence

A **compound sentence** is a **sentence** that has at least two independent clauses joined by a conjunction or a comma or a semicolon. Each clause in a compound sentence is called 'the main clause' or 'the coordinate (main) clause'.

Example: 1. This house is too expensive and that house is too small.

3. Complex sentence

A complex sentence is a sentence with an **independent clause** and at least one **dependent clause**.

Example: 1. Whenever he was lonely, Lance called his mother.