



Warm-up

Match the parts in the four columns to make meaningful sentences.

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The dull grey curtains	chewing the rattle	was pattering	by the wind.
The heavy rain	in my bedroom	was bought	on the window.
The curly haired baby	on the shelf	are being blown	at everyone.
The carved silver kettle	during the night	was smiling	by his mother.



You just used different phrases with suitable verbs to make sentences.

A **phrase** consists of two or more words that together form a part of a sentence. It does not make complete sense without a sentence as it does not have a finite verb. A phrase may function as a noun, an adjective or an adverb.

Let us read more about the different kinds of phrases.

Noun Phrase

A **noun phrase** is a group of words that does not have a finite verb and is made up of a head noun or a pronoun and other modifiers before or after it. It acts as the subject or the object of a verb, or as a complement. A noun phrase can be replaced with a noun or a pronoun.

For example:

- ◆ *My new pair of jeans* is very comfortable.
 (In this sentence, the noun phrase *my new pair of jeans*, with the head noun *jeans*, is functioning as the subject.)
- ◆ We have adopted *a small black puppy*.
 (In this sentence, the noun phrase *a small black puppy*, with the head noun *puppy*, is functioning as the object.)

Did You Know?

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A **finite verb** is usually the main verb of a sentence. It is the verb that changes its form to show tense and changes with the number of the subject.

For example:

- ◆ *Mona enjoys* driving.
- ◆ We *enjoy* driving in the hills.
- ◆ The family *enjoyed* driving uphill.

Recap

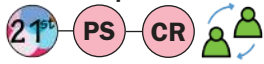
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- A subject of a sentence is the doer of the action. An object of a sentence is the receiver of the action indicated by the verb.
 - For example:
- | | | |
|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| The painter | painted | the picture. |
| ↓ | ↓ | ↓ |
| subject | verb/action | object |



- ◆ My grandfather gave me a new book for *my birthday*.
 (In this sentence, the noun phrase *my birthday*, with the head noun *birthday*, is functioning as the complement.)

A. Underline the noun phrases in these sentences. Then, work in pairs, and check each other's answers.



1. The big bright full moon adorned the sky.
2. Beth dreamt she was all alone on a lonely planet.
3. There are many dogs in my uncle's house; the big black one is very friendly.
4. My piano lessons are progressing well.
5. The paperback edition of this book is not available anywhere.
6. Chemical pesticides and fertilisers are poisoning waterbodies too.
7. My 70-year-old grandmother wants to buy a new sports car.
8. The new travel agency serves only elderly travellers.
9. Beena has recently donated a hundred books to charity.
10. The old man in the blue shirt is the new karate teacher.



Adjective Phrase

An **adjective phrase** is a group of words that does not have a finite verb and that functions as an adjective and modifies a noun, a noun phrase or a pronoun in a sentence. It has a head adjective that is further modified by any of these:

- ◆ determiners
 For example:
 I have a few fresh oranges.
- ◆ adverbs before or after the head adjective
 For example:
 He is very happy.
- ◆ phrases that act as the complement of the head adjective
 For example:
 She is afraid of that room.

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Sometimes, an adjective phrase may have more than one head adjective.

Now, let us read a few more examples of adjective phrases.

- ◆ We ordered *some cheesy* pizzas.
 (Here, the adjective phrase *some cheesy*, with the head adjectives *some* and *cheesy*, is modifying the noun *pizzas*.)
- ◆ He was *thin, tall and grumpy*.
 (Here, the adjective phrase *thin, tall and grumpy*; with head adjectives *thin, tall* and *grumpy*; is modifying the pronoun *he*.)



- ◆ The documentary film was *terribly boring*.

(Here, the adjective phrase *terribly boring*, with the head adjective *boring*, is modifying the noun phrase *the documentary film*.)

- B. Underline the adjective phrases in this description. Then, check your answers with the teacher.** 

It was a cold and bleak wintry evening. The gentle murmuring breeze tapped against the window blinds.

Outside, the wind blew the fallen yellow leaves to another lonely place. Soon, white feathery flakes covered the earth, preparing us for a chilly white morning.

We stayed inside the warm wooden house. It was an amazing weather, suitable for a long-awaited family get-together.

I was extremely glad to meet my naughty cousins after a very long time. And I couldn't wait to meet my witty and charismatic uncle, a well-known globetrotter, who always has many fantastic and mind-blowing stories to share with us.

At night, we lit a small bonfire, and sat around it, singing old forgotten songs from our childhood. It seemed like we had gone back to a similar windy wintry night when we had travelled to a hill station almost a decade ago. As we unconsciously travelled to the past, it began snowing. Soon, the grounds were covered with a thick white blanket of snow. And, just as the clock struck twelve, we shouted loudly to each other, "A very happy new year!"



Adverb Phrase

An **adverb phrase** is a group of words that does not have a finite verb and that acts as an adverb, and modifies a verb, an adjective or another adverb in a sentence. The head of an adverb phrase is an adverb that is modified by other words before or after it.

An adverb phrase may give information about the manner, place, time, duration, frequency and degree of a verb, an adjective or another adverb.

For example:

- ◆ The audience sang *very enthusiastically* with the choir.

(Here, the adverb phrase of manner *very enthusiastically*, with the head adverb *enthusiastically*, is modifying the verb *sang*.)

- ◆ This classical dancer performs *very often* in this club.

(Here, the adverb phrase of frequency *very often*, with the head adverb *often*, is modifying the verb *performs*.)

- ◆ Nurul painted the wall *quite carefully*.


(Here, the adverb phrase of manner *quite carefully*, with the head adverb *carefully*, is modifying the verb *painted*.)

- ◆ Nilofer had planted the sapling *right here*.

(Here, the adverb phrase of place *right here*, with the head adverb *here*, is modifying the verb *had planted*.)

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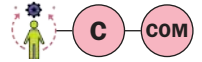
C. **Underline the adverb phrases in these sentences. Then, work in pairs, and check each other's answers. You may circle the the head adverb.** 

- The train moved quite slowly as it neared the station.
- He spoke surprisingly well, though it was his debut.
- We dine out only occasionally.
- The firefighters got into action really quickly.
- You should have submitted the report much earlier.
- My grandmother looked after me extremely well.



D. **Work in pairs. Make new sentences with the adverb phrases you have identified in the previous exercise, and read them aloud. You should make two sentences with each adverb phrase.**

Prepositional Phrase



A **prepositional phrase** is a group of words that does not have a finite verb, and that begins with a preposition and is followed by a noun or a noun phrase, an adjective or an adjective phrase, or an adverb or an adverb phrase.

For example:

- There was a big pothole on the main road.
(Here, the prepositional phrase *on the main road*, beginning with the preposition *on* and followed by the noun phrase *the main road*, is an adverb phrase that is modifying the verb *was*.)
- I travelled by bus from there.
(Here, the prepositional phrase *from there*, beginning with the preposition *from* and followed by the adverb *there*, is an adverb phrase that is modifying the verb *travelled*.)
- The house at the end of the street is haunted.
(Here, the prepositional phrase *at the end of the street* is an adjective phrase that is modifying the noun phrase *the house*.)
- She talked to everyone in a pleasing way.
(Here, the prepositional phrase *in a pleasing way* is an adverb phrase that is modifying the verb *talked*.)
- The park by the river is very crowded.
(Here, the prepositional phrase *by the river* is an adjective phrase that is modifying the noun phrase *the park*.)

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A prepositional phrase may act as a complement, or may function as an adjective phrase or an adverb phrase in a sentence. It does not act like a preposition in a sentence.


Did You Know?

A noun phrase has a head noun, an adjective phrase has a head adjective, and an adverb phrase has a head adverb. All these head words can generally be used in isolation or with other modifiers.

For example:


- These ~~soft and chewy~~ candies are called marshmallows.
(If the phrase *soft and chewy* is deleted in the noun phrase *these soft and chewy candies*, it does not affect the meaning of the sentence.)

However, the preposition in a prepositional phrase needs to be followed by a noun, a noun phrase, an adjective, an adjective phrase, an adverb or an adverb phrase.

E. Fill in the blanks with suitable prepositions. Then, underline the prepositional phrases now formed. Check your answers with the teacher. 

1. The tall tree swayed _____ side to side during the storm.
2. The building _____ the market has been constructed.
3. They sat _____ the river _____ their fishing rods dipped in.
4. Please bear _____ a temporary disruption in your network.
5. If you take pride _____ your work, you will always give your best.
6. Sheeba is slow _____ the game and may not move _____ the next level.



F. Work in groups of three, and identify any two kinds of phrases—noun, adjective or adverb—in each of these sentences. Then, check your answers with the teacher. 

1. The old and experienced teacher called me to the front of the class.
2. The small black counter in the kitchen is made of marble.
3. The crooked little cottage stands behind the school wall.
4. The hungry little caterpillar crept up the leafy stem.
5. She behaved in a ridiculous manner on the stage.
6. Stealing another's money is against the law.
7. Independent India has moved fast towards becoming a developing economy.
8. The weak-looking old man was participating very enthusiastically in the cleanliness drive.



Summary



In this lesson, we have learnt that

- a sentence may be made up of different kinds of phrases;
- a **noun phrase**, with a head noun, is a group of words that does not have a finite verb and that functions as the subject or the object of a verb, or as a complement in a sentence;
- an **adjective phrase**, with a head adjective, is a group of words that does not have a finite verb and that functions as an adjective in a sentence;
- an **adverb phrase** with a head adverb, is a group of words that does not have a finite verb and that functions as an adverb in a sentence;
- a **prepositional phrase** begins with a preposition and is followed by a noun, a noun phrase, an adjective, an adjective phrase, an adverb or an adverb phrase; and
- a prepositional phrase is a group of words that does not have a finite verb and that functions as a complement, an adjective phrase or an adverb phrase in a sentence. (It does not act like a preposition in a sentence.)

2

Noun Phrases Functions



Warm-up

Work in pairs, and role play this dialogue with the correct expressions.

You just practised a dialogue where the italicised words are replaced by the pronoun *it*. The italicised words in the first speech bubble is a complex noun phrase.

We know that a noun phrase is a group of words that does not have a finite verb and that functions as a subject, an object or a complement in a sentence. It consists of a head noun and some other words acting as modifiers before or after it.

Let us now read about the structure of a noun phrase.



Structure of a Noun Phrase

A noun phrase may be structured in many ways, some of which are shown here.

Determiner	Premodifier	Head Noun	Postmodifier
every	Indian	<i>child</i>	
the	dark and dingy	<i>storeroom</i>	
many		<i>people</i>	in our colony
that	extremely bright	<i>object</i>	in the sky



Noun Phrases: Premodifiers

Words that precede the head noun in a noun phrase and that qualify the head noun are called **premodifiers**. Such words may act as determiners, adjectives or adjective phrases, and they together make up the noun phrase with the head noun.

For example:

- ◆ *Much* money has been spent on his education. (determiner + head noun)
- ◆ *Some rude* people show no respect to their elders. (adjective phrase + head noun)
- ◆ *School* education is a must for children. (adjective + head noun)

Other premodifiers in a noun phrase may include the present participle (*-ing* form of the verb, used as an adjective) and the past participle, used as an adjective. They precede the head noun.

For example:

- ◆ Do you want to listen to *the thrilling* stories? (The noun phrase includes a present participle *thrilling*.)
- ◆ *The hounded* animal finally escaped inside a cave. (The noun phrase includes a past participle *hounded*.)

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Did You Know?



Even if the head noun is plural,

1. its premodifiers are always singular.

For example:

◆ *four pencil* boxes

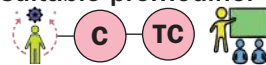
◆ *the staff* salaries

2. its premodifiers indicating number and measurement are always singular. We usually use a hyphen with compound adjectives.

◆ *the four-hour long* drives

◆ *the eight-inch* snakes

- A. **Work in groups of three. Discuss in your group, and add a suitable premodifier to expand each noun phrase. Then, check your answers with the teacher.**



1. My brother studies in a _____ school.
2. *The* _____ girl was awarded a scholarship.
3. My brother solved *the* _____ complex puzzle.
4. _____ citizens actively participate in a democracy.
5. I am reading *the* _____ novel by J K Rowling.
6. *Most* _____ people exercise regularly to stay fit.
7. We cannot see *the* _____ stars without a telescope.
8. *This* _____ city is located on the banks of the Ganga.
9. Gagan has been a _____ hero in saving the child from the inside of the house on fire.
10. We went to see *the* _____ Rashtrapati Bhavan on Republic Day.

Self-help



There may be an adverb modifying an adjective in a noun phrase.

For example:

It was a *surprisingly* satisfying movie.

Noun Phrases: Postmodifiers

Words that are used after the head noun in a noun phrase and that qualify the head noun are called **postmodifiers**. The postmodifier in a noun phrase is usually an adjective phrase or a prepositional phrase.

For example:

- ◆ *The box full of cookies* was emptied by the children.
(determiner *the* + head noun *box* + adjective phrase *full of cookies*)
- ◆ *The animals in the zoo* are regularly examined by a vet.
(determiner *the* + head noun *animals* + prepositional phrase *in the zoo*)
- ◆ *That man with a white beard* is a renowned scientist.
(determiner *that* + head noun *man* + prepositional phrase *with a white beard*)



Other post modifiers in a noun phrase may be the present participle (-ing form of the verb, used as an adjective) and the past participle used as an adjective. These may precede the prepositional phrase modifying the noun phrase.

For example:

- ◆ *That bird singing on the tree* is a cuckoo.
- ◆ *Those relics excavated from the site* belong to the Harappan civilisation.




Postmodifiers add extra information about the head noun that precedes them; they are not necessary to complete the meaning of the sentence.

B. Underline the postmodifier(s) in each sentence. Do the sentences make complete sense if you remove the underlined postmodifier(s)? If the sentences make sense, then your answers are correct. 21 PS CT

1. Boys sitting in that corner helped me fill the form.
2. Do you like the food with its tangy taste?
3. Vansh has paid back the money borrowed from his friends.
4. Lenny loves eating vegetables with a lot of cheese.
5. Someone visits the orphans in the night shelter daily.
6. Newspapers reporting the incident have already been circulated.
7. Cottages built on the hilltop are centrally heated for winter.
8. The jar of peanut butter slipped from my hand.
9. Children cheering the team were asked not to make noise.
10. Villagers are often awed by the traffic on city roads.



- C. Work in pairs, and rewrite the sentences changing the italicised premodifiers into postmodifiers. The first one has been done for you. Then, check each other's answers. 

1. This is *an interesting* topic for me.
This is a topic of interest for me.
2. *The teak* table is an antique.
3. We bought *the Persian* carpets.
4. *A government* officer helped us.
5. That is our *recreation* room.
6. Grandpa is a *very patient* man.
7. We enjoyed *the summer* vacation.
8. *The expiry* date is printed on the flap.
9. He has been a *successful* man.
10. He is a *grey-haired* man.



Did You Know?



A head noun may have both premodifiers and postmodifiers.

For example:

- ◆ *The unexpected rainfall early in the morning* caused a lot of delay.

premodifier

head noun

postmodifier

Noun Phrases: Complements

Noun complements come immediately after the head noun in a noun phrase. They are usually prepositional phrases. Complements are necessary to complete the meaning of the head noun and cannot be removed. They are different from the postmodifiers that modify or describe the noun and can be removed from the sentence.

For example:

- ◆ *Your love for the country is exemplary.*
(The prepositional phrase *for the country* is the complement necessary for completing the meaning of the head noun *love*.)
- ◆ *The people of Delhi are worried about the rise in temperature.*
(The prepositional phrase *in temperature* is the complement necessary for completing the meaning of the head noun *rise*.)

Self-help



Noun complements are usually used with abstract nouns.

D. Underline the noun complements and strike out the postmodifiers in these sentences. Check your answers based on the following—a postmodifier is not important for the meaning of the sentence and can be deleted, while a complement cannot be deleted from a sentence without altering the meaning.



- The road to Pune is very well-laid.
- The feeling of fear and loneliness is very deep.
- The girl has problems finding her belongings.
- Look at the picture of the man wanted for embezzlement.
- The bottle with medicine has been labelled.
- The man was driving a car with a broken window.
- The advice to the winners is to stay humble.
- A gift of ten thousand rupees was given to each player.

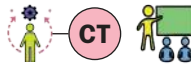
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A complement cannot be replaced with a relative clause, while a postmodifier can be replaced.

For example:

- ◆ a glass (which is) of water (complement)
- ◆ the glass (which is) on the table (modifier)

E. Underline the noun phrase complements in these sentences. Did you find any exception? Then, check your answers with the teacher.



- The sound of this alarm is very pleasant.
- A fear of water is deeply rooted in me.
- The smoke from burning leaves is harmful.
- I appreciate the way you serve the poor.
- He gave me an impression of being haughty.
- This stream of clear water joins the river.
- Trina helped herself to a spoonful of honey.
- The only game to exercise all your limbs is lawn tennis.
- His claim of being innocent was rejected.
- The professor's knowledge of the subject was vast and detailed.



F. Complete the noun phrases in these sentences by adding noun complements. Then, read aloud the sentences in class.



- The beauty _____ is an attraction.
- The photograph _____ in the wildlife sanctuary came out very well.
- What is your reason _____?
- Our hope _____ is fading now.
- Their need _____ is quite reasonable.

