**IDENTIFYING PHRASES**

**Lesson Outline**

**The Phrase : Definition**

**Types of Phrases**

Noun Phrases

Verb Phrases

Prepositional Phrases

Verbal Phrases : Gerund Phrases

Participial Phrases

Infinitive Phrases

Appositive Phrases

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Type of Phrase** | **Use** | **Cue** | **Puntuation Rule** |
| Prepositional | Adjective or adverb | Begins with a preposition | Use a comma after an introductory phrase: If the phrase is long |
| Participial | Adjective | Verb form ending in -ed or -ing | Use comma after an introductory phrase |
| Gerund | Noun | Verb form ending in - ing | None |
| Infinitive | Noun, adjective or adverb | Starts with "to" + verb | Use a comma after an introductory phrase when NOT used as a noun |
| Appositive | Adjective | Next to pronoun/noun  Is a noun/pronoun | Use a comma after an introductory phrase  Use a comma to set off nonessential appositive phrase |

**PHRASES PRACTCE EXERCISES**

**NOUN PHRASES**

**Identify each noun phrase in the following sentences by circling the determiner and underlining the headword.**



1. My relatives have many odd habits.

2. Aunt Flo has an extensive collection of old umbrellas.

3. Aunt Flo’s umbrella collection decorates her front porch.

4. Her oldest son keeps a pet mongoose in the garage.

5. My older brother built a geodesic dome for his second wife.

6. Our cousins from Atlanta make an annual pilgrimage to the Mojave Desert.

7. Their maternal grandmother dresses her three small dogs in colorful sweaters.

8. Uncle Silas’s son plays the kazoo in a marching band.

9. This eccentric behavior rarely causes problems with the neighbors.

10. Some members of the family never attend the annual family reunion.

**Read the sentences below and identify which sentences have noun phrases and which do not. Put a tick tick iconor a cross cross icon, and then indicate the function of each phrase.**

1. The People's Palace is in the Queen's Building.
2. The teacher told the students to be quiet.
3. The James Mason Lecture Theatre is in the Francis Bancroft building.
4. The Cultural and Social Anthropology Department deals with the many aspects of the social lives of people around the world.
5. The English for Academic Purposes Modules run by the highly qualified teachers in the language and learning unit, are available to all students of Queen Mary University of London.
6. Science and Engineering degrees are run by the school of Science and Engineering.

**Underline each noun phrase in the following paragraph. Then, circle "head noun"**

A private jet offers luxury services to travelers who can afford it. A variety of comforts and special features are on board. The well-designed interiors have comfortable seats, work tables, and Internet access. The wide aisles leave enough space to walk around. Some private jet services include a chef. Gourmet breakfasts, lunches and dinners are prepared in the galley of the aircraft.

Tired passengers can nap in their seats or they can sleep in one of the on-board bedrooms. A relaxing shower in the spa will allow a passenger to arrive fresh and ready to greet people. Such conveniences are the result of new technology and creative thinking. In so many ways, luxury jets are like flying luxury hotels.

**PREPOSITIONAL PHRASES**

**Directions: Underline the prepositional phrases in the following sentences and identify them as adjectival (adj) or adverbial (adv).**

1. Many paths lead to the top of the mountain.
2. Byron Scott became the new coach of the Cleveland Cavaliers in 2010.
3. On a cold November afternoon, the new coach met me at his office.
4. According to Mark Twain life on a riverboat was an opportunity for adventure.
5. The students from my study group take long walks around the campus on sunny days.
6. In spite of an aversion to public appearances, the candidate held regular press conferences throughout the campaign.
7. The student assistant in our botany class made a presentation about wild turkeys.
8. During the night our dog cornered a skunk behind the garage.
9. The passengers with stand-by tickets waited by the gate for an hour.
10. Because of a computer error, your refund will not arrive until next month.
11. During spring break , friends from my hometown and I went to Sunset Beach.
12. One of my best friends is a computer programmer.
13. Koala bears are found only in certain parts of Australia.
14. Leaves from our neighbor’s tree covered our lawn.
15. I mailed the rest of my invitations for Cory's birthday party at the post office.
16. The teacher gave directions for the exam and then sat down at the back of the room.
17. The length of a football field is a hundred and twenty yards.
18. Our grandparents always go to the Rocky Mountains for their vacation.
19. Maria's expensive mountain bike needed new parts after an accident on a rugged trail.
20. The large waves of the incoming tide are washing away my sandcastle.



**VERBALS**

***Distinguishing between Participles and Gerunds***

**Identify the verbal as a present participle or gerund. If the verbal is a participle, write the noun that it is modifying. If the verbal is a gerund, write its function.**

1. He has ruined his lungs by smoking.
2. Asking questions is easier than answering them.
3. We saw a clown standing on his head.
4. He hates spending money.
5. Waving their hands, the spectators cheered the runners.
6. We are confident of winning the election.
7. The boy cried thinking that he would be whipped.
8. Can you teach me painting?
9. Barking dogs seldom bite.
10. Smoking is injurious to health.
11. The candidate getting the most votes wins the election.
12. After resting for an hour, you will feel much better.
13. Reading a good novel always gives me pleasure.
14. They enjoyed taking long walks on the trail.
15. We won't eat any of the turkey roasting in your oven.
16. The judges, talking at length among themselves, finally gave the award to the Beagle.
17. Mary's downfall is eating snacks between meals.
18. Choosing the right major is a tough job for a lot of students.
19. He switched to smoking electronic cigarettes.
20. The girl eating the chocolate bar is going to gain weight.

**Underline the participial and gerund phrases in each of the following sentences. Indicate the function of gerund phrases.**

1. I hope that you appreciate my offering you this opportunity.
2. Having been on the road for four days, the Todds were exhausted.
3. That hymn, sung by many generations, is my favorite.
4. Climbing slowly, we approached the top of the hill.
5. Phil, worn out by his long trip, slept for twelve hours.
6. Staring out the window at the rain, Bob became more and more impatient.
7. Having been hurt in the first game, Al sat on the bench for the rest of the season.
8. The plates, brought from Denmark by my grandmother, are on display in the dining room.
9. The cookies, baked this morning, were all gone by five o'clock.
10. Newt's favorite tactic has been lying to his constituents.
11. Having come out in the cool night air, Mr. Troy looked up at the sky.
12. Working hard all day, the boys finished the job by dinner time.
13. Driven from their homelands, many people each year seek refuge in the United States.
14. Jumping up and down, the cheerleaders urged the team on.
15. You might get in trouble for faking an illness to avoid work.
16. The basketball team, encouraged by its performance in the semifinals, went on to the finals.
17. Having recorded the results of the experiment, Kate closed her notebook.
18. Finding a needle in a haystack would be easier than what we're trying to do.
19. Being the boss made Jeff feel uneasy.

**Underline the infinitive, gerund and participle phrases in each of the following sentences, and then indicate their function.**

1. Does Joan have enough change to make a phone call?
2. Staring out the window at the rain, Bob became more and more impatient.
3. The plates, brought from Denmark by my grandmother, are on display in the dining room.
4. His greatest asset, typing two hundred words per minute, has earned him a better position at the company.
5. The students didn't want to bring the speaker to the meeting of the student council.
6. Megan is trying to practice the piano an hour a day.
7. Watching me closely, the dog came toward me.
8. My job is making reservations for overnight guests at the hotel.
9. After saving the dog's life, the young man was given an award.
10. I was happy to give you a ride home.

**THE INFINITIVE PHRASE**

**Underline the infinitive phrase in each of the following sentences, and then indicate its function.**

1. To be objective in my decision is hard.
2. Does Joan have enough change to make a phone call?
3. Always try to proofread your paper before you turn it in.
4. Ellen is able to swim six lengths of the pool.
5. I was happy to give you a ride home.
6. To move to a larger house would be unwise for us now.
7. Fred was frightened to be alone in the old house.
8. Megan is trying to practice the piano an hour a day.
9. Did you have time to feed the kitten?
10. The mayor decided to call a press conference.
11. Dick always tries to do his best.
12. Sarah tried to paint the ceiling of her room.
13. The lecturer was asked to speak for half an hour.
14. Our plan is to go to Tennessee in October.
15. To play tennis every day is Jim's ambition for the summer.

**THE APPOSITIVE PHRASE**

**Identify and underline the appositive phrase found in each sentence.**

1. The monkey, a nimble animal, is often found in the jungle.

2. Dave Lewis, a teacher at Lawson, works with many aspiring musicians.

3. Before you trash BoBo, your last childhood stuffed animal, consider saving it.

4. The coast of Africa, one of the world's largest continents, is a prosperous trading region.

5. Mr. Sonntag hired two new teachers, Mr. Davies and Ms. Parker.

6. Our family visited The Smithsonian Institution, a vast network of galleries in Washington, D.C.

7. Our neighbor and his daughters, Parvi and Sonya, take walks every evening.

8. The flashlight should be returned to Mark, the owner.

**Combine the following sentences using appositive phrases. Punctuate and underline the appositives .**

1. A. The California coastline is the longest of all the states.

B. The California coastline is a national treasure.

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2. A. The sick elephant attacked its trainer.

B. The sick elephant is the one in the third cage.

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3. A. The careless man shot a condor.

B. The condor is the rarest bird in California.

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4. A. The basketball players make millions of dollars a year.

B. Kobe makes millions of dollars a year. *(Hint: Use a connective word.)*

C. Shaq makes millions of dollars a year.

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**Identifying types of phrases: Underline the verb in each sentence twice, the subject once, and place parenthesis around the phrase. Then, identify whether its type and function.**

Type Function

1. In just a minute, the concert will begin. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2. Our hotel is in the French Quarter, a neighborhood. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3. The walls have not been painted in six years. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

4. A tiny deer was prancing in the field. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

5. Vermeer, a famous artist, had trouble earning a living. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

6. The prices on the menu are really expensive. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

7. Helen placed candles around the room. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

8. Bobcats, large cats in the wild, sometimes attack deer. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

9. The snow fell steadily on the lawn. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

10. The winter sport skiing requires warm clothing. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

11. The librarian, asked about enjoyable fitness activities, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

recommended the new book about tai chi. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

12. Standing during a two-hour train trip is not my idea of fun. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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