# Phrase Examples

A phrase is a group of words that express a concept and is used as a unit within a sentence. Eight common types of phrases are: noun, verb, gerund, infinitive, appositive, participial, prepositional, and absolute. Take a look at our selection of phrase examples below.



## Noun Phrases

A [noun phrase](https://grammar.yourdictionary.com/parts-of-speech/nouns/noun-phrases.html) consists of a noun and all its modifiers.

Here are examples:

* **The bewildered tourist** was lost.
* **The lost puppy** was **a wet and stinky dog.**
* **The flu clinic** had seen many cases of infectious disease.
* It was **a story as old as time.**
* **The sports car** drove **the long and winding road**.
* Saturday became **a cool, wet afternoon.**

## Verb Phrases

A [verb phrase](https://grammar.yourdictionary.com/sentences/verb-phrase.html) consists of a verb and all its modifiers.

Here are examples:

* He **was waiting for the rain to stop**.
* She **was upset when it didn't boil**.
* You **have been sleeping for a long time.**
* You **might enjoy a massage.**
* He **was eager to eat dinner.**

## Gerund Phrases

A gerund phrase is simply a noun phrase that starts with a [gerund](https://examples.yourdictionary.com/gerund-examples.html).

Examples include:

* **Taking my dog for a walk** is fun.
* **Walking in the rain** can be difficult.
* **Strolling along a beach at sunset** is romantic.
* **Getting a promotion** is exciting.
* **Signing autographs** takes time.
* **Going for ice cream** is a real treat.
* **Singing for his supper** was how he earned his keep.
* **Getting a sore back** was the result of the golf game.
* **Pulling an all-nighter** did not improve his test scores.
* **Sailing into the sunset** was the perfect end to the book.

## Infinitive Phrases

An infinitive phrase is a noun phrase that begins with an [infinitive verb](https://grammar.yourdictionary.com/parts-of-speech/verbs/infinitive-verb.html).

Here are some examples:

* **To make lemonade**, you have **to start with lemons**.
* I tried **to see the stage**, but I was too short.
* She organized a boycott **to make a statement**.
* **To see Niagara Falls** is mind-boggling.
* He really needs **to get his priorities in order**.
* The company decided **to reduce hours for everyone**.
* **To donate time or money** is an honorable thing.
* I went to Spain **to study the language and culture**.

## Appositive Phrases

An [appositive phrase](https://grammar.yourdictionary.com/parts-of-speech/nouns/example-of-an-appositive-noun.html) restates and defines a noun. It consists of one or more words.

Examples are:

* **My favorite pastime**, needlepoint, surprises some people.
* Her horse, **an Arabian**, was her pride and joy.
* My wife, **the love of my life**, is also my best friend.
* A cheetah, **the fastest land animal**, can run 70 miles an hour.
* My idea, **a recycling bin for the office**, was accepted by the boss.
* The Florida panther, **the state animal of Florida**, is an endangered species.

## Participial Phrases

A [participial phrase](http://grammar.yourdictionary.com/grammar/sentences/participial-phrases.html) begins with a past or present [participle](https://examples.yourdictionary.com/reference/examples/participle-examples.html).

Examples are:

* **Washed with my clothes**, my cell phone no longer worked.
* **Knowing what I know now**, I wish I had never come here.
* I am really excited, **considering all the people that will be there**.
* We are looking forward to the movie, **having seen the trailer last week**.
* **Grinning from ear to ear**, she accepted her award.
* The happy dog ran the entire length of the park, **pausing only to sniff the dandelions**.
* **Painted a brilliant white**, the small room appeared bigger.
* The lake, **frozen over all winter**, was finally thawing.

## Prepositional Phrases

A [prepositional phrase](https://grammar.yourdictionary.com/parts-of-speech/prepositions/Prepositional-Phrases.html) begins with a preposition and can act as a noun, an adjective or an adverb.

Examples are:

* The book was **on the table**.
* We camped **by the brook**.
* He knew it was **over the rainbow**.
* She was lost **in the dark of night**.
* He was **between a rock and a hard place**.
* I waited **for a while**.
* She smelled **of strawberries and cream**.
* He won the challenge **against all odds**.

## Absolute Phrases

An [absolute phrase](https://grammar.yourdictionary.com/grammar/sentences/what-is-an-absolute-phrase.html) has a subject, but not an action verb, so it cannot stand alone as a complete sentence. It modifies the whole sentence, not just a noun.

Examples are:

* **His tail between his legs**, the dog walked out the door.
* **Picnic basket in hand**, she set off for her date.
* The guys attacked the pile of nachos, **their fingers getting the last bit of cheese off the plate**.
* **Their heads hanging down**, the whole group apologized.
* The entire team, **their uniforms muddy and stained**, shouted for joy.

These are just a few examples of the eight different kinds of phrases.