# Phrase: Definition, Types & Examples

****

**Phrase** and clause are the most important elements of English grammar. Phrase and clause cover everything a sentence has. Clauses are the center of sentences and phrases strengthen the sentences to become meaningful. If the clauses are the pillars of a building, the phrases are the bricks. A phrase usually is always present within a clause, but a phrase cannot have a clause in it.

The basic difference between a clause and a phrase is that a clause must have **a finite verb** and a phrase must not.

A **phrase**, therefore, is a group of words which has no finite verb in it and acts to complete the sentence for making it meaningful.

“A phrase is a small group of words that form a meaningful unit within a clause.”-Oxford Dictionary

“In linguistic analysis, a phrase is a group of words (or possibly a single word) that functions as a constituent in the syntax of a sentence, a single unit within agrammatical hierarchy.”- Osborne, Timothy, Michael Putnam, and Thomas Gross (2011)

## Types of Phrases

The phrases are generally of **six types**.

* [Noun Phrase](https://www.learngrammar.net/english-grammar/phrase#noun)
* [Adjective Phrase](https://www.learngrammar.net/english-grammar/phrase#adjective)
* [Adverbial Phrase](https://www.learngrammar.net/english-grammar/phrase#adverbial)
* [Prepositional Phrase](https://www.learngrammar.net/english-grammar/phrase#prepositional)
* [Conjunctional Phrase](https://www.learngrammar.net/english-grammar/phrase#conjunctional)
* [Interjectional Phrase](https://www.learngrammar.net/english-grammar/phrase#interjectional)

### Noun Phrase

A **noun phrase** is usually assembled centering a single noun and works as a subject, an object or a complement in the sentence.

**Example:**

* I like to swing the bat hard when I am at the crease. (An object)
* Reading novels is a good habit. (A subject)
* The probability of happening that match is not much. (A subject)
* We are sorry for her departure.

### Adjective Phrase

An **adjective phrase** is comprised of an adjective and works as a single adjective in the sentence.

**Example:**

* Alex is a well-behaved man.
* He is a man of friendly nature.
* Julie is a woman of gorgeous style.
* She leads a very interesting life.
* A lot of people do not sleep at night.

### Adverbial Phrase

An **adverbial phrase** modifies the verb or the adjective and works as an adverb in the sentence.

**Example:**

* The horse runs at a good speed.
* I was in a hurry then.
* I ran as fast as possible.
* He works very slowly.

### Prepositional Phrase

A **prepositional phrase** always begins with a preposition and connects nouns.

**Example:**

* He sacrificed his life for the sake of his country.
* In the end, we all have to die.
* He is on the way.
* By working aimlessly, you will not get success.
* In spite of working hard, he was insulted by his boss.

**Note:**Prepositional phrases include all other types of phrases.

### Conjunctional Phrase

A **conjunctional phrase** works as a conjunction in the sentence.

**Example:**

* As soon as you got in, he went out.
* We have to work hard so that we can win the next match.
* I will attend the ceremony provided that you come.
* John started working early in order that he could finish early.

### Interjectional Phrase

Interjections that have more than one words are called the **interjectional phrases**.

**Example:**

* What a pity! He is dead.
* What a pleasure! I won the first prize.
* Oh please! Don’t say that again.