



**University center Abdelhafid Bousouf - Mila**  
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**E-Learning unit**

## English - level 2

### – Lesson 01 –

## English Phrases: Basic Types

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#### Etudiants concernés

Institut	Département	Année	Spécialité
-Lettres et Langues étrangères	- <i>Français</i>	-Français	<a href="#">Licence 1</a>
-Sciences et Techniques	- <i>MI- ST</i>	-MI- ST	<a href="#">Licence 1</a>
-Sciences Economique	- <i>SE</i>	-Toutes les spécialités	<a href="#">Licence 1</a>

#### Objectives of lesson 6

- i. To make students aware of the use of phrases in English.
- ii. To familiarize students with the various different kinds phrases.

### 1. Definition:

A phrase is two or more words related to each other. A phrase does not contain a subject and/or a finite verb verb. A phrase cannot convey a complete thought if it is taken out of the sentence where it belongs. Phrases do resemble dependent clauses since for them to be meaningful, they must not be divorced from the sentence of which they are an integral part.

### Types of Phrases:

There are five major types of phrases that the English language uses. Each of these five types is defined and explanatory examples are provided below.

#### 1. Noun Phrase

A noun phrase can either comprise:

- i. *a single noun (Ahmed, rice, etc.)*
- ii. *a group of words that work together to describe a person, place, thing or idea.*

Noun phrases usually function as subjects or objects of the main verb of the sentence.

- **He** is tired.

(here the noun phrase is one word and it functions as the subject of the sentence)

- Who ate **the last ice-cream**?

(here the noun phrase comprises two words and it functions as the object of the sentence)

#### 2. Verb Phrase

A verb phrase is the verbal part of a clause or an entire sentence. The group of the main verbs and auxiliaries, if any, within a sentence is called the verb phrase of that sentence.

- My friend **is writing** a letter.

### 3. Adjective Phrase

An adjective phrase serves precisely the same function as an adjective. Adjectives typically qualify a noun or a pronoun.

- She has *nice* ideas.
- He has a *very interesting* book.

### 4. Adverb Phrase

An adverb phrase can constitute just a single adverb or a group of words following and/or preceding an adverb in the sentence.

- He spoke German **fluently**.

### 5. Prepositional Phrase

A prepositional phrase consists of a preposition followed by its object (usually a noun phrase).

- The boy *in the red shirt* is not my nephew.

**Time for practice:**

*Identify the phrase type in each of the following sentences:*

1. Houses are (*unbelievably expensive*) just now.

.....

2. We met (*Paul last week*)

.....

3. (*A car that won't go*) is not particularly useful.

.....

4. I enjoy eating (*in Indian restaurants*)

.....

5. Don't you have to leave (*early*)?

.....

6. Tell (*him*) not to worry

.....

*Taken from:* <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/internet-grammar/phrases/exe4.htm>

## References

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- 6) <https://www.englishclub.com/grammar/sentence/phrases.htm>
- 7) <https://www.lexico.com/grammar/phrases>.