



Centre Universitaire Abdelhafid Boussouf Centre E-learning



English – Level1

Lesson 1

English Phrases

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Objectives of the Lesson:

1. To make students aware of the use of phrases in English.
2. To familiarize students with the various different kinds of phrases.

1. Definition

Phrases are **parts of speech**; they are **groups of two or more words** that work together in a sentence to fulfill a particular grammatical function. A phrase does not consist of both a subject and a predicate, in addition to that, it does not convey a full meaning when it is divorced from its sentence.

2. Types of Phrases

There are several types of phrases. However, the major five types are the following:

a. Noun Phrase

A noun phrase is made up of **a noun and any modifier(s)** (an adjective, an adverb or an article) or **determiner(s) that are directly related to it**. It performs the same grammatical function as nouns in a sentence.

e.g. I finally found **the book** I was looking for.

The **blue car** is mine.

b. Verb Phrase

A verb phrase may consist of either **an auxiliary plus its main verb**, or **a verb plus any modifiers, objects, or complements**. It expresses the verbal part of a clause or a sentence.

e.g. I **am running** late.

She **has been learning** English for 3 years.

c. Adjective Phrase

An adjective phrase consists of **an adjective and any determiners, modifiers, or adjective complements** that modify or complete the meaning of the adjective. In a sentence, the entire phrase serves as an adjective, modifying a noun.

e.g. This is my favorite jacket.

The girl was wonderfully talented.

d. Adverb Phrase

An adverbial phrase can be made up of **an adverb with any determiners and extra information**, or **an adverb with a degree adverb**.

e.g. I practise sport once a week.

She is running too quickly.

e. Prepositional Phrase

Prepositional phrases are made up of a preposition and its object. They function as adverbs, but they can also function as an adjective.

e.g. We hung the painting on the wall.

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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