**Types of Phrases**

A phrase is a group of related words (within a sentence) without both subject and verb. For example, He is laughing **at the joker.**

A phrase functions as a noun, verb, adverb, adjective or preposition in a sentence. The function of a phrase depends on its construction (words it contains). On the basis of their functions and constructions, phrases are divided into various types ***i.e. noun phrase, verb phrase, adverb phrase, adjective phrase, appositive phrase, infinite phrase, participle phrase and gerund phrase.***

**Noun Phrase**

A noun phrase consists of a noun and other related words (usually modifiers and determiners) which modify the noun. It functions like a noun in a sentence.  
  
A noun phrase consists of a noun as the head word and other words (usually modifiers and determiners) which come after or before the noun. The whole phrase works as a noun in a sentence.   
Noun Phrase = noun + modifiers (the modifiers can be after or before noun)

Examples  
He is wearing **a nice red shirt.** (as noun/object)  
She brought a **glass full of water.** (as noun/object)  
**The boy with brown hair** is laughing. (as noun/subject)  
**A man on the roof** was shouting. (as noun/subject)

A sentence can also contain more noun phrases.   
For example **The girl with blue eyes** bought **a beautiful chair**.

**Prepositional phrase**

A prepositional phrase consists of a preposition, object of preposition (noun or pronoun) and may also consist of other modifiers.  
*e.g. on a table, near a wall, in the room, at the door, under a tree*  
  
A prepositional phrase starts with a preposition and mostly ends with a noun or pronoun. Whatever prepositional phrase ends with is called object of preposition. A prepositional phrase functions as an adjective or adverb in a sentence.

Examples  
A boy **on the roof** is singing a song. (As adjective)  
The man **in the room** is our teacher. (As adjective)  
She is shouting **in a loud voice.** (As adverb)  
He always behaves **in a good manner.** (As adverb)

**Adjective Phrase**

An adjective phrase is a group of words that functions like an adjective in a sentence. It consists of adjectives, modifier and any word that modifies a noun or pronoun.  
An adjective phrase functions like an adjective to modify (or tell about) a noun or a pronoun in a sentence.  
  
Examples  
He is wearing **a nice red** shirt. (modifies shirt)  
The girl **with brown hair** is singing a song. (modifies girl)  
He gave me a glass **full of water.** (modifies glass)  
A boy **from America** won the race. (modifies boy)  
  
*Prepositional phrases and participle phrases* also function as adjectives so we can also call them adjective phrases when they function as adjective. In the above sentence “The girl with brown hair is singing a song”, the phrase “with brown hair” is a prepositional phrase but it functions as an adjective.

**Adverb Phrase**

An adverb phrase is a group of words that functions as an adverb in a sentence. It consists of adverbs or other words (preposition, noun, verb, modifiers) that make a group with works like an adverb in a sentence.  
An adverb phrase functions like an adverb to modify a verb, an adjective or another adverb.  
  
Examples  
He always behaves **in a good manner.** (modifies verb behave)  
They were shouting **in a loud voice.** (modifies verb shout)  
She always drives **with care.** (modifies verb drive)  
He sat **in a corner of the room.** (modifies verb sit)  
He returned **in a short while.** (modifies verb return)

A prepositional phrase can also act as an adverb phrase. For example in above sentence “He always behaves in a good manner”, the phrase “in a good manner” is a prepositional phrase but it acts as adverb phrase here.

**Verb Phrase**

A verb phrase is a combination of main verb and its auxiliaries (helping verbs) in a sentence.

Examples  
He **is eating** an apple.  
She **has finished** her work.  
You **should study** for the exam.  
She **has been sleeping** for two hours.  
  
According to *generative grammar*, a verb phrase can consist of main verb, its auxiliaries, its complements and other modifiers. Hence it can refer to the whole predicate of a sentence.  
Example You **should study for the exam.**

**Infinitive Phrase**

An infinitive phrase consist of an infinitive(to + simple form of verb) and modifiers or other words associated to the infinitive. An infinitive phrase always functions as an adjective, adverb or a noun in a sentence.  
  
Examples  
He likes **to read books.** (As noun/object)  
**To earn money** is a desire of everyone. (As noun/subject)  
He shouted **to inform people about fire.** (As adverb, modifies verb shout)  
He made a plan **to buy a car.** (As adjective, modifies noun plan)

**Gerund Phrase**

A gerund phrase consists of a gerund (verb + **ing**) and modifiers or other words associated with the gerund. A gerund phrase acts as a noun in a sentence.  
  
Examples  
I like **writing good essays.** (As noun/object)  
She started **thinking about the problem.** (As noun/object)  
**Sleeping late in night** is not a good habit. (As noun/subject)  
**Weeping of a baby** woke him up. (As noun/subject)

**Participle Phrase**

A participle phrase consists of a present participle (verb + **ing**), a past participle (verb ending in **-ed** or other form in case of irregular verbs) and modifiers or other associate words. A participle phrase is separated by commas. It always acts as an adjective in a sentence.  
  
Examples  
The kids, **making a noise,** need food. (modifies kids)  
I received a letter, **mentioning about my exam.** (modifies letter)  
The table, **made of steel**, is too expensive. (modifies table)  
We saw a car, **damaged in an accident**. (modifies car)

**Absolute Phrase**

Absolute phrase (also called nominative phrase) is a group of words including a noun or pronoun and a participle as well as any associated modifiers. Absolute phrase modifies (give information about) the entire sentence. It resembles a clause but it lack a true finite verb. It is separated by a comma or pairs of commas from the rest sentence.  
  
Examples  
He looks sad, **his face expressing worry.**  
She was waiting for her friend, **her eyes on the clock.**  
John is painting a wall, **his shirt dirty with paint.**