



# Phrases

A phrase is part of a sentence that never has both a verb and a subject — sometimes it has neither. See if you can spot the phrases that pop up in the questions below.

1. Look at options a) - l) below. Write a 'P' in the boxes next to those which are phrases.

- |                      |                          |                        |                          |
|----------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| a. they are happy    | <input type="checkbox"/> | g. as soon as possible | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. I don't like ham  | <input type="checkbox"/> | h. we train hard       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. fancy cake cases  | <input type="checkbox"/> | i. our history teacher | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d. rather confusing  | <input type="checkbox"/> | j. despite the rain    | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e. Jim builds sheds  | <input type="checkbox"/> | k. he counts in French | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| f. on Saturday night | <input type="checkbox"/> | l. unlimited chocolate | <input type="checkbox"/> |

2. Underline the adverbials in the sentences below.

- The lorry made its way up the hill exceedingly slowly.
- Walter and Lucinda play the castanets most skilfully.
- It is highly unlikely that you will find a water buffalo in your garden pond.
- Emily applied the brakes, but the train was still moving dangerously fast.

*An adverbial is a word or phrase that's used like an adverb. It gives more information about a verb or clause.*

3. Underline the prepositional phrase in each of these sentences.

- We need to get the horse out of the kitchen.
- The walkers ended up lost in the middle of nowhere.
- After school, I play football and walk the dog.
- We left before lunch, and we didn't return.

*A preposition tells you where or when something is in relation to other things.*



# Phrases

4. Underline the noun phrases in the sentences below.

- The angry man chased his big brother down the road.
- The fire-breathing dragon escaped from the wizard's castle.
- The old oak tree came crashing down on top of the flowers.
- My friend Albert found a prickly hedgehog in his back garden.

*A noun phrase is a group of words that includes a noun. In a sentence, noun phrases behave like nouns.*

5. Complete the sentences below by adding a fronted adverbial.

- ....., my sister and I went to the new science museum.
- ....., Amy is going to drive all the way to Bath.
- ....., Daniel is building a den in the back garden.

6. Rewrite the sentences below, replacing the underlined parts with a shorter noun phrase that has the same meaning. The first sentence has been done for you.

- The kitten was rescued from the tree by the hero who was strong and fearless.

*The kitten was rescued from the tree by the strong and fearless hero.*

- The house I live in has a living room which is small but cosy.
- .....

- The ship was taken over by pirates who were mean and grumpy.
- .....

*Phrases are the bread and butter of sentences for all good Grammagators. Are you happy with phrases?*

