



## Phrases



Naughty Nicky has mixed up the phrases in all of her sentences. Read and locate the mix-ups

1. My neighbourhood shop is offering electronic goods on recycled paper.
2. This year, our school magazine will be printed towards the temple.
3. The procession of devotees is moving the fastest runner in the school.
4. The children congratulated Vijay, at fifty per cent discount!



- ★ The phrases at the end in each of the above sentences need to be rearranged.
- ★ Rewrite the sentences correctly. One has been done for you.

1. My neighbourhood shop is offering electronic goods at fifty per cent discount!..... <sup>paper,</sup>
2. This year, our school magazine will be printed on recycled.....
3. The procession of devotees is moving towards the temple.....
4. The children congratulated Vijay, the fastest runner in the school.....



A phrase can be found at the beginning, middle, or end of a sentence.

- ★ Use phrases from the box to complete each sentence sensibly. Write correctly.

over hills and valleys	baking cakes and cookies	for days together
a world renowned tabla player	have been travelling	on the roof

1. Baking cakes and cookies..... is my grandmother's favourite pastime.
2. For days together, we trekked over hills and valleys.
3. Zakir Hussain is a world renowned tabla player.....
4. The monkey on the roof..... is wearing my shirt.
5. They have been travelling..... on their cycle for a year.



### Say it aloud

- ☐ A phrase is a group of related words within a sentence, e.g. I saw a tall girl.
- ☐ A phrase may not contain a subject or a verb or both. Thus, a phrase may have a meaning but it does not convey a complete thought.
- ☐ A sentence may contain more than one phrase, e.g. A tall girl / was standing / near me.
- ☐ There are several kinds of phrases. The more prominent of them are: noun phrase, verb phrase, and prepositional phrase.

A **prepositional phrase** begins with a preposition and ends with a noun or a pronoun.

Note the two phrases underlined in each sentence. Tick only the prepositional phrase. Write the preposition that begins the phrase. One has been done for you.

- My uncle Ranjeet and his wife Radha are doctors at a private hospital. at
- They hold free medical check-up camps every month for the very poor. for
- Last year, near a remote village, a team of ten doctors set up a dispensary. near
- More and more people should contribute to the welfare of the needy. to

A **noun phrase** begins with a noun or a pronoun or other related words.

Read the sentences. Enclose the words that are closely related to the underlined nouns. Write each noun phrase on the line. One has been done for you.

- [That magnificent house] was built by my great-grandfather.
- My great-grandfather's ancestors lived in houseboats.
- My father designs tall commercial buildings in cosmopolitan cities.
- All those cast-iron benches have been installed by my grandmother.



The noun phrases in the sentences above are:

- that magnificent house
- my great-grandfather's ancestors
- tall commercial buildings
- All those cast-iron benches

A **verb phrase** is a combination of the main verb and the helping verbs in a sentence.

Underline each verb phrase. Write the main verb. One has been done for you.

- The barking of the dog did not disturb others except me in the house.
- Heena's mother had invited us to her house last month.
- My sisters have been playing under a waterfall since morning.
- Who would not like to be a fun-loving person in this world?

The main verbs in each verb phrase in the sentences given above are:

- disturb
- invited
- playing
- like



Say it aloud

A **prepositional phrase** = preposition + the object of the preposition (noun / noun phrase), e.g. in the box

A **noun phrase** = determiners + noun (or) modifiers + noun (or) determiners + modifiers + noun, e.g. the tall child

A **verb phrase** = helping verbs + main verb; (or) helping verbs + (modifiers) + main verb, e.g. has (not) been lying

The **main word** in each **phrase** is called a **head word**. A phrase is incomplete without a head word.



A phrase is named after its **head word** which is the most important word used in the phrase.

- ★ Tick the **head word** in each underlined phrase and write it down. State the kind of the phrase. One has been done for you.

1. We left our heavy bags downstairs.
2. She went across the street to buy some grocery.
3. The strange green creature was a caterpillar.
4. My father has been barred from eating too much.



bags / noun phrase  
across / prepositional phrase  
creature / noun phrase  
barred / verb phrase



A group of related words with a noun/pronoun-verb pair is a clause and **not** a phrase.

- ★ From the listed groups of words, put a cross for the four that are **not** phrases.

1. come rain or shine ☒
2. if she could move ☒
3. between Krishna and Arjun ☐
4. as this is the place ☒
5. sleeping all night ☐
6. because Tom has an ostrich ☐
7. before school reopened ☐
8. without a care ☐
9. a legendary singer with us ☐

- ★ Beside each given phrase, write the phrase matching in meaning from the box.

1. an extraordinary thing: out of this world
2. a lot of deceptive or false talk: a big humbug
3. to move or work very slowly: like a sloth
4. to suffer badly and to recover from it: to hell and back
5. to return an offence: a tit for tat
6. a very easy task: a piece of cake

a piece of cake  
like a sloth  
out of this world  
a tit for tat  
a big humbug  
to hell and back

- ★ Rearrange each set of words into meaningful phrases. Tick the head word. See example.

1. sky / blue / a / clear  
a clear blue sky
2. candle / under / burning / a  
under a burning candle
3. lady / grand / like / old / a  
like a grand old lady
4. waterfall / below / pool / the / a  
the pool below a waterfall
5. feather / as / light / a / as  
as light as a feather
6. being / was / away / taken  
was being taken away

Say it aloud

- A **phrase** is made up of words that revolve around the **main word** called the **head word**. The head word determines the nature of a **phrase**. Every **phrase** has a **head word**, e.g. Most of the villagers (noun phrase) / have assembled (verb phrase) / for the meeting (prepositional phrase).