Phrases

A phrase is a group of words that functions in a sentence as a single part of speech (noun, verb, adjective, adverb). Phrases do NOT contain a subject AND a verb. Four types of phrases will be covered:

- prepositions and prepositional phrases
- participles and participial phrases
- appositives and appositive phrases
- infinitives and infinitive phrases

(Do you see a pattern here?)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prepositions and Prepositional Phrases</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Remember – a preposition is the first word in a prepositional phrase. It is followed by a noun or pronoun which is the object of the preposition. Together, the words act as a prepositional phrase. EX: under the boardwalk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I found a seashell under the boardwalk.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Prepositional phrases act as either an ADJECTIVE or as an ADVERB in sentences.
- If the pp modifies a noun, it is an adjective.
- If the pp modifies a verb, adjective, or adverb, it is an adverb.

1. Adjective prepositional phrases
   - modify a noun or pronoun
   - tell which one, how many, or what kind
   - must come right next to the noun/pronoun that it modifies

Ex: This spider is a type of jumping spider. (modifies the noun type) The tiny bug on the windowsill is also a jumping spider. (modifies the noun bug)

2. Adverb prepositional phrases
   - modify a verb, adjective, or another adverb
   - tell where, when, how, why, or to what extent

Ex. Jumping spiders live in many places. (modifies the verb live) These spiders are famous for their eight eyes. (modifies the adjective famous) They jump far for their size. (modifies the adverb far)

Notes:
Verbal Phrases
(Participles and Infinitives)
(Looks like a verb, sounds like a verb, but IS NOT a verb)

Participles and Participial Phrases

A PARTICIPLE is a verb form that acts as an adjective. It modifies a noun or pronoun; therefore, it must come right next to the noun or pronoun that it modifies.

EX. The exhausted campers found a crumbling schoolhouse.

A PARTICIPIAL PHRASE consists of a participle plus its modifiers and complements. The entire phrase modifies a noun or a pronoun.

The campers spied a shape lurking in the dark shadows. (modifies shape) Frightened by the sight, they stopped cold. (modifies they)

Most participles end in: ing (giving), ed (painted), n (grown), or t (hurt)

Using words that end in –ing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Example</th>
<th>Clue</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Participle</strong></td>
<td><strong>Gerund</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What’s that scampering sound?</td>
<td>It’s the scampering of rodents.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Could be replaced by an adjective?</td>
<td>Could be replaced by a noun?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Literary Model

He was thin, nondescript, with a cap pulled down over his eyes....I was just slowing down for one of the tunnels – when I saw him – standing under an arc light by the side of the road. I could see him quite distinctly. The bag, the cap, even the spots of fresh rain splattered over his shoulder.

-Lucille Fletcher, The Hitchhiker

NOTES:
Infinitives and infinitive phrases

An INFINITIVE is a verb form that usually begins with the word –to and acts as a noun, an adjective, or an adverb.

Mars is a place some people want to visit.

An INFINITIVE PHRASE is an infinitive plus its modifiers and complements. The entire phrase functions as a noun, an adjective, or an adverb.

To believe in life on Mars was common in the 1930s.
(acts as a noun)

Martians might use flying saucers to invade Earth.
(acts as an adverb)

I took time to read an old science fiction book.
(acts as an adjective)

Using Infinitive Phrases

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nouns</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To colonize Mars is a real possibility. (subject)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My dream is to live on Mars. (predicate noun)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Would you like to go there? (direct object)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adverb</th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Science fiction writers wrote about little green Martians to scare readers.</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adjective</th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Even some scientists believed Mars to be inhabited.</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Literary Model

“I’d like to go to India myself,” said the old man, “just to look around a bit, you know.”

“Better where you are,” said the sergeant-major, shaking his head.

“I should like to see those old temples and fakirs and jugglers,” said the old man.

- W.W. Jacobs, “The Monkey’s Paw”

NOTES:
An appositive is a noun or pronoun placed directly after other nouns or pronouns to give additional information about these words. Appositives are often set off from the rest of the sentence by commas or dashes (—).

Appositive – a noun or pronoun which renames or further identifies the noun or pronoun right in front of it.

EX: The painter Pablo Picasso lived in Spain. (Pablo Picasso renames painter)

Appositive phrase – an appositive with any modifiers. It also must come directly after the noun or pronoun it renames or identifies.

EX: Willa Cather, an American novelist, has published many books.

The shopping center – a network of cars, shops, and people – provides many jobs.

RULE OF THUMB ABOUT COMMAS:
• If the information is necessary to the meaning of the sentence, do NOT use commas.
• If the information is NOT necessary to the meaning of the sentence, USE commas.

NOTES: