

NOUN PHRASES

A **noun phrase** is a group of words that adds meaning to the subject noun of the sentence.

Example:

Charles Dickens, **a famous English novelist**, wrote many books.

'Charles Dickens' is the subject noun. '**A famous English novelist**' is the noun phrase.

We can join two sentences into a single sentence by using a **noun phrase**.

Example:

Rover is my pet dog.
It can perform many tricks.



Rover, **my pet dog**, can perform many tricks.

**More examples:**

1. Tom, **my good friend**, is a good badminton player.
2. Mr Brown, **our next-door neighbour**, has bought a new house.
3. David, **my cousin**, is coming to see me tomorrow.
4. Mrs Lee, **our music teacher**, is a well-known singer.
5. Peter, **my brother**, is a very clever boy.
6. Roland, **Mary's husband**, is a famous writer.
7. The injured passenger, **a small boy**, was bleeding profusely.
8. Mr Robinson, **a foreign coach**, is very strict with the players.
9. Mary, **my best friend**, met with an accident yesterday.
10. Mr Woods, **our English teacher**, has bought a new car.

EXERCISE 28

(A) Fill in the blanks with suitable noun phrases from the box below.

- an old woman
- a large land mammal
- a cancer specialist
- our class monitor
- the longest river in the world
- a small island
- my good friend
- my neighbour
- our English teacher
- a tropical fruit

1. Singapore, _____,
is situated near the Equator.
2. Dr Simpson, _____,
is a kind and caring person.
3. The beggar, _____,
looked weak and sickly.
4. Marcus, _____,
is a responsible pupil.
5. Jason, _____,
plays football with me every Friday.
6. The durian, _____,
has a pungent smell.
7. The Nile, _____,
flows through Egypt.
8. Mr Lee, _____,
complains that our cat has been entering his garden.

9. The elephant, _____
has a good memory.

10. Mr Smith, _____
tells us wonderful stories.

**(B) Join each of the following pairs of sentences into a single sentence.
Your sentences must contain a noun phrase.**

1. My sister is a ballet dancer. She practises every day.

2. Paris is the capital of France. It is very beautiful.

3. Pussy is my pet cat. It is very playful.

4. Malaria is a deadly disease. It is caused by mosquitoes.

5. The victim was a senior citizen. She was robbed in the lift.

6. The bus driver was a heavy drinker. He lost his job.

7. My uncle is a bachelor. He has many hobbies.

8. Mrs Brown is a poor widow. She is raising four children.

9. The lion is a carnivorous animal. It has no natural predator.

10. The panda is an endangered animal. It can only be found in China.

ADJECTIVAL PHRASES

Look at the pictures. Read the sentences.

The man **in the car** is Mr Louis.

Picture 1



The girl **with long hair** is Nancy.

Picture 2



A **phrase** is a group of words that does not have a verb. It forms part of a sentence. It is not a complete sentence.

The phrase '**in the car**' in picture 1 describes Mr Louis. It is an **adjectival phrase**. The phrase '**with long hair**' in picture 2 describes Nancy. It is also an **adjectival phrase**.

- (i) An **adjectival phrase** describes the noun or pronoun in a sentence. It can contain more than one adjective.

Examples:

1. The weather is **hot and humid**.

'**Hot and humid**' is an **adjectival phrase** that describes the weather.



2. The players are **skilful and disciplined**.

'**Skilful and disciplined**' is an **adjectival phrase** that describes the players.



(ii) An adjectival phrase can also begin with a preposition.

Examples:

1. The umbrella **with a broken handle** belongs to Kate.

'**With a broken handle**' is an **adjectival phrase** that describes the umbrella.



2. The man **behind the counter** is the boss.

'**Behind the counter**' is an **adjectival phrase** that describes the man.



More examples:

1. The man **in the office** is our principal.
2. The girl **in the yellow skirt** is my sister.
3. The people **under the tree** are foreign workers.
4. The boy **in the photograph** is my brother.
5. The children **in the jungle** have lost their way.
6. The bag **on the table** belongs to my sister.
7. The onion soup is **nice and thick**.
8. The oranges are **sweet and juicy**.
9. The pupil is **rude and stubborn**.
10. This sentence is **clear and simple**.
11. His shoes are **dirty and smelly**.
12. The suitcase is **big and heavy**.
13. She is really **hungry and tired**.
14. His grandfather is **old and weak**.
15. The boy **at the bus stop** dropped his books.
16. The girl **in the red skirt** is my friend.
17. The bicycle **in the shade** is mine.
18. The lady **beside Mary** is our English teacher.

EXERCISE 29

(A) Expand the following sentences by adding the adjectival phrases in the brackets.

Example:

The houses are made of mud. (in the village)

The houses in the village are made of mud.

1. Who is the boy? (at the bus stop)

2. The man is the manager. (in the office)

3. Can you recognise the man? (with the scarred face)

4. The boy looks familiar. (with the red cap)

5. The house belongs to Mr Calvin. (with the red roof)

6. John bought a watch. (with a leather strap)

7. The people are foreign workers. (in the room)

8. The children are pupils of the school. (in the hall)

9. The food is for the guests. (on the table)

10. The fish are expensive. (in the tank)

(B) Complete the adjectival phrases in the following sentences with suitable adjectives from the box below.

generous

juicy

hardworking

tiring

clumsy

hungry

disruptive

feeble

eerie

damp

accurate

delicious

1. When Mr Smith reached home, he was **tired** and _____.

2. These mangoes are **sweet** and _____.

3. Is the boy really **fat** and _____?

4. The boss is happy because his workers are **punctual** and _____.

5. This restaurant serves food that is **cheap** and _____.

6. I took pity on the **old** and _____ beggar.

7. Gordon's answer is **fast** and _____.

8. The **rude** and _____ pupil was punished.

9. I entered the room. It was **cold** and _____.

10. The haunted house was **dark** and _____

(C) Complete the following sentences with suitable adjectival phrases from the box below.

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| • in a red dress | • with a facial scar |
| • by the roadside | • with enormous ears |
| • at the party | • with a poisonous sting |
| • on the stage | • with a red roof |
| • at the bus stop | • without friends |
| • on the shelf | • with two humps |

1. The vendors _____ are selling clothes and shoes.
2. The scorpion is an insect _____.
3. Have you ever seen camels _____?
4. The boy _____ looks like Paul.
5. The terrace house _____ belongs to Mr Simpson.
6. Please hand me the book _____.
7. The children had a wonderful time _____.
8. Do you know the singer _____?
9. The man _____ looks very aggressive.
10. Is the girl _____ your sister?
11. A person _____ is very lonely.
12. The elephant is an animal _____