



## Phrases

A phrase is a group of words. Two phrases you should know more about are the **prepositional phrase** and the **verbal phrase**.

### Prepositional Phrases

A prepositional phrase is a group of words that work together to tell more about a noun or verb. A prepositional phrase always begins with a preposition and usually ends with a noun. Prepositional and verbal phrases serve to further illustrate the details of a sentence, improve clarity and add detail(s).

- The creamy cheese with the sharp taste melts over the pizza. (2 phrases)
- We walked to the store after the quiz in math. (3 phrases)

Most prepositions locate an object in time or space. Some prepositions can be several words like "in front of."

Here is a partial list of prepositions:

after	beneath	by	like	on	toward
among	beside	from	near	on top of	under
below	between	in	of	to	with

### Verbal Phrases:

Three forms of the verb can work another job in the sentence.

1. The **ing** form can work as an adjective, adverb or noun:
  - She rode the horse well, standing tall in the saddle.
  - Standing tall in the saddle was easy for her.
2. The **ed** form can work as an adjective or adverb:
  - The flag flew, tattered by high winds.
  - Curled on the sleeping bag, the cat dozed.
3. The **infinitive form (to + a verb)** can work as a noun:

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- She wanted to win the race.
- To win was her goal.

Prepositional phrases and verbal phrases cannot stand alone. They can only be parts of a sentence. They are in the sentence to tell more about the subject or verb or some other part of the sentence. Often you will find several phrases in a row.

- We want to forget about our health during our youth. (3 phrases)
- She let go of the snake, and it fell slowly like a thread. (2 phrases)
- They sang after hauling firewood up the river on a toboggan. (3 phrases)

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