

## Adding Phrases to Sentences

Sentences are formed using many words—such as nouns, adjectives, and adverbs—that are often single words. However, phrases and clauses, which are larger collections of related words, often function exactly the same way as single words. For example, participial phrases always function as adjectives, just like their single-word counterparts. Keep in mind the difference between phrases and clauses: clauses are groups of related words that have both a subject and a verb, whereas phrases are groups of related words that do not have both subject and verb.

Following are some common types of phrases, and examples of how they usually function the same way as single words.

Prepositional phrases can function as adjectives, adverbs, and nouns. A prepositional phrase includes a preposition followed by its object, plus all the other associated words. Below are sentences showing adjectives, adverbs, and nouns as single words, followed by sentences with prepositional phrases that work the same way:

1. Fashion trends change quickly. (Single-word adjective)
2. The trend of women's fashion changes quickly. (Prepositional phrase as an adjective)
3. He came here with an empty briefcase. (Single-word adverb)
4. He came into the meeting with an empty briefcase. (Prepositional phrase as an adverb)
5. San Diego is where I want to live. (The city's name is a noun)
6. In the southern area is where I want to live. (Prepositional phrase used as a noun)

Infinitive phrases, like prepositional phrases, can also function as adjectives, adverbs, or nouns. An infinitive phrase includes an infinitive, which is the word "to" followed by a verb, plus all the other associated words. Below are sentences with single word adjectives, adverbs, and nouns, followed by sentences with infinitive phrases that work the same way:

7. The popular decision met with approval. (Single-word adjective)
8. The decision to double the vacation time met with approval. (Infinitive phrase as an adjective)
9. He wrote a letter quickly. (Single word adverb)
10. He wrote a letter to solicit funding. (Infinitive phrase as an adverb)
11. Biology is fun to study, and rewarding too. (Single word noun)
12. To study biology is fun, and rewarding too. (Infinitive phrase as a noun)

Participial phrases function as adjectives. A participial phrase includes a participle, which is a verb ending in "ed" or "ing," plus all the other associated words. Below are sentences with single-word participles, followed by sentences with participial phrases that work the same way:

13. The critic wrote an unfavorable review. (Single-word adjective)
14. The critic wrote a review criticizing the director's new movie. (Participial phrase as an adjective)
15. The entire film was too long. (Single-word adjective)
16. The film, unedited by any of the students in the film class, was too long. (Participial phrase used as an adjective.)

Gerund phrases are used as nouns. A gerund phrase is a verb with an "ing" ending, plus all the other associated words. You might notice that a gerund phrase resembles a certain type of participial phrase. However, a gerund phrase always functions as a noun, but a participial phrase always functions as an adjective. Below are sentences with single word nouns, followed by sentences with gerund phrases that work the same way:

17. George likes vegetables. (Single word noun)
18. George likes eating all kinds of vegetables. (Gerund phrase as a noun)
19. Animals are not allowed in the coffee shop. (Single word noun)
20. Bringing animals into the coffee shop is not allowed. (Gerund phrase as a noun)

###