

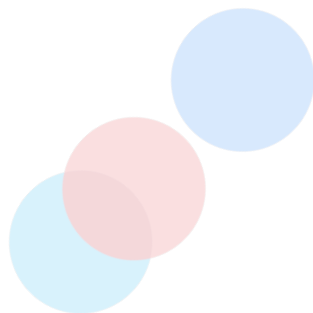
OVERVIEW

As opposed to a complete sentence, a phrase is a group of words. Phrases can make your language richer in terms of giving more details, context and a focus. By mastering the art of phrasing, you can become a better writer.

Phrases are useful because they can be used in all types of sentence structures. There are different types of phrases and each type is named for the part of speech it modifies or the role it plays in a sentence.

The three important types of phrases are:

1. Prepositional phrases (介詞短語)
2. Participle phrases (分詞短語)
3. Appositive phrases (同位詞)



Snapshotask

3 Important Grammatical Phrases

Prepositional phrases (介詞短語)

A prepositional phrase is a phrase that includes a preposition and its object. Some common prepositions are: with, through, by, under, in, of, before, after, etc.

- “With + noun,” is used to introduce a reason.

E.g. we work more effectively.

- “Under + noun,” is used to introduce background.

E.g. all eligible citizens can get \$5000.

- “By / Through + Ving,” is used to introduce a method.

E.g. you turn on the alarm system.



Participle phrases (分詞短語)

A participle phrase is a phrase that includes either a present participle (e.g. teaching) or a past participle (e.g. taught) and its object. Most of the verbs can be used for participle phrases.

When participle phrases are put at the beginning: “Ving / Ven + object, SVO.”

- is used to give the reason for the SVO

E.g. 1 Since we learn from a Nobel Prize Laureate, we work more effectively.

E.g. 2 Since we are taught by a Nobel Prize Laureate, we work more effectively.

E.g. 1a we work more effectively.

E.g. 2a we work more effectively.

- is used to show what happens before the SVO

E.g. 3 We turned off our TV before we went to bed.

E.g. 4 We were briefed on the details of tomorrow’s picnic before we went to bed.

E.g. 3a we went to bed.

E.g. 4a we went to bed.

- is used to show what happens at the same time as the SVO

E.g. 5 We were watching TV when the phone rang.

E.g. 5a the phone rang.

When participle phrases are put in the middle: “S + Ving / Ven + object + VO.”

- is used to give extra information

E.g. 6 The guy is wearing a red tuxedo. The guy is covered in mud. The guy is my teacher.

E.g. 6a The guy (wear) is my teacher.

E.g. 6b The guy (cover) is my teacher.

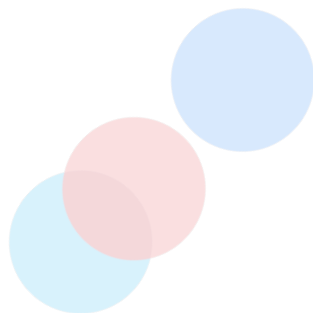
Note: If it is a negative sentence, add “NOT” in the front of the participle phrase.

When participle phrases are put at the end: “SVO, Ving + object.”

- “SVO, Ving + object.” is used to give the result of the SVO

E.g. 7 The bomb went off so it destroyed the buildings.

E.g. 7a The bomb went off,



Appositive phrases (同位詞)

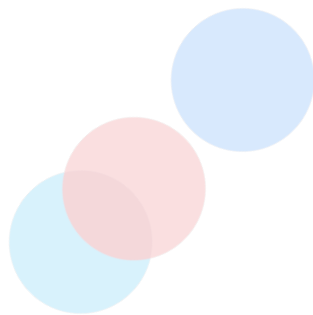
An appositive phrase is a phrase that includes an appositive and the noun it modifies.

- “S, a / an + noun, VO.” is used to give related factual background about the subject.

E.g. 8 Hong Kong, a cultural melting pot, has recently listed egg tarts and mahjong to its list of intangible cultural heritages.

- “SVO, a / an + noun.” is used to give related factual background about the object.

E.g. 9 A huge proportion of millennials today have already read the Harry Potter series, a story about love, friendships and bravery.



Comparison

Will it make a difference with or without the proper use of grammatical phrases? See the following:

Question 1: Write a letter to apply for being a summer school teacher at Lab College.

LEVEL 4

COMMENTS

I am writing to apply for a position of being a summer school teacher at Lab College.

I am an English graduate and I have had hands-on experience in teaching English language in an education centre before. I also cooperated with other departments to deliver useful materials to my students.



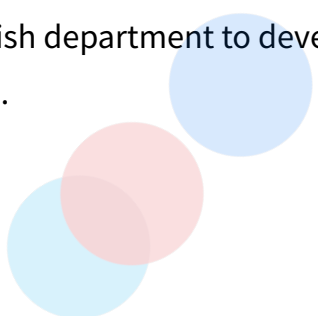
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LEVEL 5**COMMENTS**

With a Bachelor Degree in English Studies, I am pleased to express my interest in the position of a summer school teacher at LAB College.

Having hands-on experience in teaching English in the Bookworm Centre, a non-profit community learning hub for underprivileged students, I have effectively designed customized lesson plans for students in accordance to course outlines and also executed non-teaching duties such as preparing progress reports, developing and organizing teaching materials.

Having a passion for education and the English language, I have worked in collaboration with other colleagues in the English department to develop curriculum.



Question 2: Write a proposal to suggest esports be included in the Olympics with reasons.

LEVEL 4

COMMENTS

Esports is a popular sport among teenagers. The numbers are growing fast and there are more viewers. In America, the number reached 90 million viewers.

LEVEL 5

COMMENTS

Generally regarded as a fast-growing sport, Esports provide excitement to people, especially youngsters. According to statistics done by Esports Association, there are a whopping 2 billion gamers globally, far exceeding the number of players of “popular sports” such as basketball and tennis.

Level-5 Students can....

- Show some creativity and ability to engage the reader’s interest
- Use a wide range of sentence structures appropriately in a more straightforward tone

Examples Of Common Prepositional Pairings

Noun + to

Noun + to	Example Sentence
access to	I couldn't enter the building without access to the door's password.
addiction to	Lewis has an addiction to football.
answer to	His answer to the teacher's question was incorrect.
approach to	Professor Cheung's approach to the experiment was incredibly innovative
damage to	The damage to the car is worse than I thought it'd be.
dedication to	Ned has intense dedication to his schoolwork.
devotion to	Everyone admired the doctor's devotion to her patients.
reaction to	The child had an adorable reaction to the kitten.
response to	She gave no response to the question I'd asked her.
solution // key to	No one could come up with a solution to the math problem.
threat to	Climate change is a potential threat to certain species.

Noun + for

Noun + for	Example Sentence
admiration for	Penny has so much admiration for her mother.
cure for	Health officials recently announced that a cure for the fatal disease had been found.
desire for	My desire for success is more important than my desire for romance.
hope for	Youths often have high hopes for equal opportunity.
need for	The need for social interaction is a basic human trait.
passion for	I have a passion for writing.
respect for	Certain cultures promote respect for elders.
room for	There's room for one more person at this table.
sympathy for	You should always have sympathy for strangers.
talent for	She has a talent for playing piano.

Noun + of

Noun + of	Example Sentence
advantage of	Most people seem to underestimate the advantage of majoring in philosophy.
disadvantage of	The disadvantage of becoming an entrepreneur is the amount of debt you can accumulate.
fear of	Mandy has a fear of insects.
habit of	I used to have a habit of biting my fingernails.
knowledge of	His knowledge of beekeeping is impressive.
lack of	The police cannot arrest him due to a lack of evidence.
memory of	I have no memory of my second year in school.
process of	The process of elimination is a popular technique when taking multiple-choice tests.
smell of	I love the smell of freshly baked cookies.
sound of	Can you hear the sound of birds chirping?
taste of	The taste of cooked beef is an acquired one.

Noun + in

Noun + in	Example Sentence
belief in	It is not uncommon to have a belief in a higher power.
change in	There is a small change in the temperature.
decrease in	A decrease in taxes would dramatically affect the economy.
delay in	There appears to have been a delay in processing your payment.
experience in	She has little experience in backpacking.
increase in	I'm hoping for an increase in environmentally friendly products.
interest in	She had an avid interest in music.
pleasure in	He took pleasure in playing the piano.
reduction in	Marco was forced to take a reduction in his pay.
rise in	After he won the jackpot, his hometown witnessed a sharp rise in sales of lottery tickets.

Noun + on

Noun + on	Example Sentence
advice on	I ask my professor for advice on my studies.
ban on	The early 20th century saw a short-lived ban on alcohol.
emphasis on	Hong Kong should place an emphasis on the development of sustainable art.
focus on	This paper will focus on the effects of smoking.
report on	The report on fast food made people more aware of the number of calories they consume.

