III B.A. English SEMESTER V Unit III Grammar Phrases and Sentences

What is a phrase?

A phrase is a small group of words standing together as a unit to make meaning. A phrase is not a complete **sentence** because it is not a complete idea with a subject, verb and a predicate. It does not have both a subject and a verb or a subject and a predicate.

Example: The brown hat was blowing away in the wind.

In a **phrase**, the main word is called the head (word) and the head (word) describes the meaning of the **phrase**. In the following phrases, each underlined word is the 'head' and tells the meaning of the particular phrase.

- ... at school
- ... in the pocket
- ... on the table
- ... by the wall
- ... near the temple
- ... sharp eyes
- ... bad temper
- ... serious mood

Types of phrases

1. Noun Phrase

A noun phrase consists of a noun and its modifier or modifiers. In noun phrases the noun in the phrase will be the head word.

Examples: There is a doggy in the window.

His behaviour tells his character.

2. Adjective phrase

An adjective phrase is a group of words headed by an adjective that modifies a noun. The adjective phrases will have the adjective as the head word.

Example:

- 1. The villain had a cruel face.
- 2. My father is immensely <u>proud</u> of me.

3. Adverbial phrase

An adverbial phrase is a group of words that functions as an adverb. An adverb is will say the quality of a verb or how the action is done.

Examples:

1. He is singing in a low voice.

2. We arrived just in time.

4. Prepositional Phrase

A prepositional phrase is a group of words that consists of a preposition. The noun or a pronoun in the prepositional phrase is its object.

Examples:

- 1. Our family lived <u>near the temple</u>.
- 2. What is the cost of the doll in the window?
- 3. We can see peacocks on our way.

5. Gerund phrase

A gerund phrase is a phrase that consists of a gerund. The gerund phrase will also act as the modifier.

Examples:

- 1. Walking fast is a rewarding practice.
- 2. Without <u>leaving your shoes</u> don't enter my room.

6. Infinitive phrase

An infinitive phrase is the infinitive form of a verb plus any complement and modifier. Infinitive phrases will have 'to infinitive' (to + verb) as a modifier in sentences.

Examples:

- 1. I have asked him to work hard.
- 2. It is a good practice to forgive even our enemy.
- 3. We have to undergo several hardships in our life.

7. Participle Phrase

A participle phrase is an adjective phrase headed by a participle. The participle phrase is different from a gerund phrase when it has a present participle (-ing form).

Examples:

- 1. Coming out with disappointment the man shouted at his friends.
- 2. The dog chasing the hare ran very fast.
- 3. Overcome with danger my friend felt very much happy.

Appositive Phrase

An appositive is a noun or a noun phrase that sits next to another noun to describe it in another way.

Examples:

- 1. Mrs Indira Gandhi, the daughter of Jawaharlal Nehru became Prime Minister of India previously.
- 2. Thomas Edison, the inventor of bulb, is a greatest inventor.

Kinds of Sentences:

There are four kinds of sentences:

Assertive / Declarative Statement – Positive and Negative

Interrogative

Exclamatory and

Imperative

What is the difference between Assertive and affirmative?

Affirmative / Positive sentence

We are students. They are teachers. All are friends.

Negative statement

We are not teachers. They are not students. All are not enemies.

Interrogative / question

Direct questions and Indirect questions / 'yes' or 'no' questions

Direct questions

What is your name?

Where are you coming from?

Why did you join the course?

Indirect / yes or no questions

Are you all right?

Don't you know English?

Will you answer my question?

Exclamation

What a wonderful weather it is! How beautifully the boy dances!

Imperative sentence:

Come in.

Sit down.

Read aloud.

All the best!

Write fast.

Don't read fast.

Types of sentences:

There are THREE types of sentences. They are (1) **Simple** sentence, (2) **Complex** sentence and (3) **Compound** sentence.

1. Simple sentence:

A simple sentence is a sentence with a **subject** and a **verb**. A simple sentence has a comple thought.

Examples: 1. Joe waited for the train.

2. The train was late.

2. Compound sentence

A **compound sentence** is a **sentence** that has at least two independent clauses joined by a conjunction or a comma or a semicolon. Each clause in a compound sentence is called 'the main clause' or 'the coordinate (main) clause.

Example: 1. This house is too expensive and that house is too small.

3. Complex sentence

A complex sentence is a sentence with an **independent clause** and at least one **dependent clause**.

Example: 1. Whenever he was lonely, Lance called his mother.