

# **NOUN PHRASE, VERB PHRASE, ADJECTIVAL PHRASE, ADVERBIAL PHRASE**

## **1.NOUN PHRASE**

### **PHRASE**

a term used in grammatical analysis to refer to a single element of structure typically containing more than one word, and lacking the subject-predicate structure typical of clauses. Traditionally, it is seen as part of a structural hierarchy, falling between clause and word, several Types being distinguished, e.g. 'Adverb phrase' (e.g. Very slowly) 'Adjectival Phrase' (e.g. The house, old and derelict,) 'prepositional phrase' in the the morning, ). In generative grammar, the term has a broader function, being used as part of a general characterization of the initial stage of analysis (phrase-structure, grammar, phrase-marker, projection) and of the analytic units involved (noun phrase, verb phrase).

### **NOUN**

a term used in the grammatical classification of words, traditionally defined as the 'name of a person, place or thing'. In linguistic terms, then, nouns are items which display certain types of inflection (e.g. Of case or

number), have a specific distribution (e.g. They may follow prepositions but not, say, modals), and perform a specific syntactic function (e.g. As subject or object of a sentence). Nouns are generally subclassified into common and proper types, and analysed in terms of number, gender, case and countability.

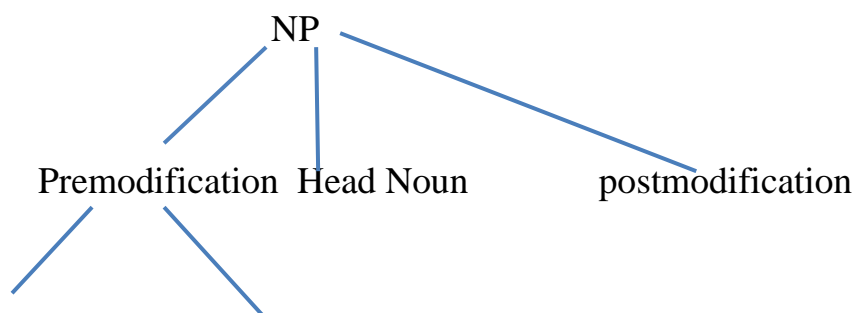
*The constructions* into which nouns most commonly enter, and of which they are the head word, are generally called noun phrases (np) or nominal groups. The structure of a noun phrase consists minimally of the noun (or noun substitute, such as a pronoun); the constructions preceding and following the noun are often described under the headings of premodification and postmodification respectively.

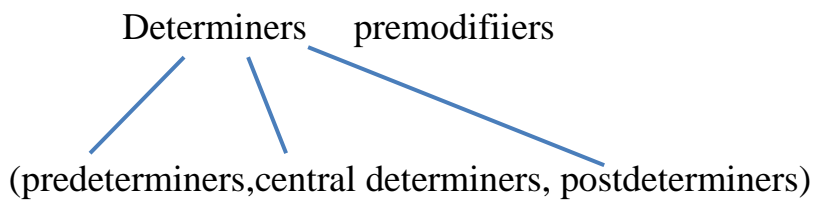
### ***A NOUN PHRASE***

how words are combined into larger structures, phrases, clauses, and sentences is the domain of syntax. The syntactic architecture of the English sentence is extraordinarily complex and can be blueprinted by various methods, none of them perfect. **A noun phrase** consists of a noun and all the words and word groups that belong with the noun and cluster around it. The noun itself is called the headword or head, and the other words and word groups are modifiers of the noun. Examples: the yellow tulips , the yellow tulips in the garden

the yellow tulips in the garden which were gaily blooming

in these examples tulips is the head, the rest of the words, the modifiers, we observe that the single-word modifiers, like the and yellow, precede the head and that the word-group modifiers, like in the garden and which were blooming, follow the head.





## NOUN PHRASE CONSTITUENTS

(A) The Head, around which the other constituents cluster and which dictates concord with other part of speech

Ex; [the girl standing in the corner] is my sister

[The tall girls standing in the corner] are my sister

[The tall girl standing in the corner who has a blue sweater] is my sister

I saw the tall girl in the corner [which was full of people ]

The Head may be supplemented by more or less complex premodification structure;

The apples from Jenny's garden

Some apples that you ate yesterday

Some of the apple imported from Spain

(B) The Determinative ,which include three classes of determiners

✚ Predeterminers which are all items can precede any central determiner in a noun phrase, e.g: all, both, double. We can distinguish two sub set

- All, half, both
- Multipliers such as once, four, double

First group can be used pronominally

Ex; my students set their exams all pass

It can also follow [of phrase] ex; Half of the team

All the furniture both those musicians

✚ Central determiners, including items such the articles, this and some  
some new office furniture all those musicians

There are six classes of determiners that can be associated with the two noun-classes; count and non-count

	[+count]	[+count]	[-count]
They,my some/any,no	bottle	bottles	milk
0-,some/any, enough	✓	✓	✓
This,that	-----	✓	✓
These, those	✓	-----	-----
A,every , each,other	-----	✓	-----
much	✓	-----	-----

✚ Postdeterminer which follow central determiners but precede premodifiers, e.g adjectives, post determiners include numerals, many ,few, several ,the.

It falls into two classes; ordinal (first, second,last,..) and quantifier (five, many , few , sixity,...)

many new offices the first books

note; ordinal usually precede quantifier

( C )The premodification, which comprises all the items placed before the head other than determinatives( the elements that can be placed between the determiners and the head noun), notably adjectives (or, rather, adjective phrases) and nouns. The kind of reference depends on the premodification structure of a noun phrase , that is by the items that pre modify the noun;

Ex: All the five extremely large apples

Some expensive furniture

Some very expensive office furniture

Types of premodifiers we have in English;

	Examples	Head Noun	Types
A.	Wonderful	book	Adjective
Gen.	Trainer's	book	Genitive construction
Part.	Recommended	book	Participles construction
N.	Football	book	Nominal construction
AD.	Often quoted	book	Adverbials construction
S.	How to play football	book	Whole sentences

(c) The postmodification, comprising all the items placed after the head, notably

Prepositional phrases: the car outside the station

Nonfinite clause: the car standing outside the station

Relative clauses: the car that stood outside the station

Complementation: a bigger car than that

## RESTRICTIVE AND NON-RESTERCTIVE MODIFICATION

-If the head of the noun phrase can only be identified through the modification that has been supplied ; it refers to as **restrictive**

-Any modification given to such a head is additional information which is not essential for identification; it refers to as **nonrestrictive**

Ex; my brother [who live in London] is sixteen. (nonresterctive)

Here if the speaker has one brother this information isn't essential

Note; the nonrestrictive information is given a separate tone unit

The same sentence ex; my brother who lives in London is sixteen.

Here the modification can be essential in the sense that the speaker has more than one brother. He use this phrase to refer to that specific person.

Restrictiveness indicates a limitation on the possible reference of the head. Alternatively, the referent of a noun phrase may be viewed as unique or as a member of a class that has been independently identified.

## **2.VERB PHRASE**

A verb phrase consists of a verb and all the words and word groups that belong with the verb and cluster around it. The verb itself is called the headword or head, and the other words and word groups are the auxiliaries, modifiers, and complements of the verb. Complements is the generic term for the completers of the verb, which know as direct object, indirect object, objective complement, and subjective complement.

English verbs all function inside verb phrases (VPs). A simple VP consists of a lexical verb acting as the main verb of the VP and anywhere from zero to four auxiliary verbs which are used to mark modality, aspect, and voice. A compound VP consists of the conjunction of two or more simple VPs. VPs can be finite or non-finite.

***A finite verb phrase*** marks tense and agreement where appropriate, and

has a subject which must be in the subject case if it is a pronoun<sup>1</sup>. It characterize by the following;

- 1.finite verb phrases can occur as the verb phrase of independent clauses
- 2.finite verb phrases have tense contrast, e.g the distinction between present and past tenses

3. there is person concord and number concord between the subject of a clause and the finite verb phrase.

4. Finite verb phrases contain, as their first or only word, a finite verb form which may either be an operator or a simple present or past form

5. Finite verb phrases have mood.

A ***non-finite verb*** phrase never marks tense or agreement; has a subject which can never be in the subject case if it is a pronoun. The infinitive ((to) all), the –ing participle (calling), and the –ed participle (called) are the nonfinite forms of verb. Hence any phrase in which one of these verb forms is the first or only word is a nonfinite verb phrase. Such phrases do not normally occur as the verb phrases of independent clause

He smokes.

To smoke like that must be dangerous.

Mary is having a smoke.

I regret having started to smoke.

He must smoke 40 a day.

The cigars smoked here tend to be expensive

You have been smoking all day. That was the last cigarette to have been smoked by me.

## **SIMPLE AND COMPLEX VERB PHRASE**

The finite verb phrase is **SIMPLE** when it consists of only one word, which may be present, past imperative, or subjunctive.

He works hard.

He Work harder!

It is important that he work hard.

The verb phrase is COMPLEX when it consists of two or more words, as in

John has worked hard.     John should be working hard.

They may have been sold

***There are four basic types of construction in a complex verb phrase***

Type A (MODAL) consists of a modal auxiliary + the base of a verb:

e.g: must examine

Type B (PERFECTIVE) consists of the auxiliary HAVE + the -ed participle of a verb : e.g : has examined.

Type C (PROGRESSIVE) consists of the auxiliary BE + the -ing participle of a verb : e.g: is examining

Type D (PASSIVE) consists of the auxiliary BE + the -ed participle of a verb  
e.g: is examined

These four basic constructions' also enter into combination with each other s

AB may have examined     AC: may be examining

AD: may be examined     BC: has been examining

BD. has been examined     CD is being examined

ABC: may have been examining     ABD may have been examined

ACD may be being examined     BCD: has been being examined

ABCD: may have been being examined

Note; type A stands for modal aux+ infinitive ,type B stands for perfective aux (have), type C progressive aux be+ -ing participle ,type D; passive aux(be) +-ed

If we relate the structure of the nonfinite verb phrase to that of the finite verb phrase, we can tabulate the eight possible combinations

To have examined     having examined

To be examining     [being] examining

To be examined     [being] examined



To have been examining      having been examining

To have been examined      having been examined

To be being examined      [being]being examined

To have been being examined      having been being examined

### **3.ADJECTIVE PHRASE**

#### **What's adjective**

All scholars are familiar with the notion of adjective, but everyone has their own interpretation of the definition of adjectives; examples of these definitions are as follows: Adjectives are a lexical category that applies to entities designated by nouns and can commonly take comparative and superlative endings in English, as well as serving as the head of an adjective phrase (e.g. red, obese, hearty).

Adjective is a word used with a noun that tells you more about it. adjectives are unusual in that they have noun-like features and verb-like qualities. Courageous appears to have – become a noun in Blessed are the brave. And, much like Mavis is sleeping, asleep appears to be a verb – like because it fits into the same space as sleeping in a sentence.

adjectives are used to modify nouns and often allude to traits that individuals or things possess, such as joyful man and noisy machine. They also state that adjectives, like articles, have the quality of appearing in front of a noun, and that when an article and an adjective join with a noun, they do so in a specific order (a happy man, \*happy a man, the noisy engine, \*noisy the engine).

the term adjective phrase is phrase having an adjective as the head, as in He was so extremely joyful. Adjective phrases are phrases that modify common nouns. She goes on to say that a phrase is a word that is defined differently in several grammar texts. In this case, it refers to a group of words that work as a unit to complete a single task.

Adjectives are frequently used as the heads of noun phrases. They do not inflect for number or the genitive case and must take a definite determiner. These adjectives have a personal connotation.

Ex; The extremely old need a great deal of attention

## **FUNCTIONS OF ADJECTIVE PHRASE**

Adjective phrases including adjectives perform five main grammatical functions within sentences in the English language. The five functions of adjectives and adjective phrases are:

1. Adjective phrase head
2. Noun phrase modifier
3. Subject complement
4. Object complement
5. Appositive.

## **4.ADVERB PHRASE**

Because there are so many sub-classes and positional variations, adverbs and adverbials are more difficult to describe than nouns, verbs, and adjectives. The best definition is that an adverb is a portion of speech that can be used to qualify a verb, an adjective, or another adverb, such as:

- The man walked quickly. ( quickly modifies the verb walked )

Morphologically, three types of adverb can be distinguished; two of these types are closed classes since they are not derivational, these are ( simple and compound ), and one is an open class (derivational):

a. Simple adverbs: e.g. just, only, well. Many simple adverbs denote position and direction, e.g. back, down, near, out, under.

b. Compound adverbs: e.g. somehow, somewhere, therefore, whereupon, hereby, whereto.

c. Derivational adverbs: the majority of these adverbs have the suffix (– ly) by means of which new adverbs are created from adjectives (and participle adjectives), as in : odd ----- oddly interesting ----- interestingly

Adverbs' clausal function is referred to as 'adverbial.' The term 'adverbial,' like phrases like subject, object, and complement, signifies an element of clause structure rather than a word - class.

An adverbial is defined as a name given by grammarians to a structure which functions as an adverb ( in modifying a verb, an adjective and other adverb ) but which does not have usual formal features, i.e. does not end in (-ly), as in:  
- He walked fast. or - He walked across the street. ( fast and across are then called adverbials).

***Adverbials can be divided into three major classes:***

1. Circumstance adverbials which add circumstantial information about the proposition in the clause, e.g. ( here, usually).
2. Stance adverbials which express the speaker's/writer's attitude towards the clauses, e.g. (unfortunately, quite frankly).
3. Linking adverbials which link the clause (or some part of it) to some other unit of discourse, e.g. (as I say...which marks a restatement of an earlier utterance).

An adverbial's place is determined by both its structure (whether it is an adverb, a prepositional phrase, a verbless sentence, etc.) and its content. Furthermore, adverbial mobility limitations are dependent on the nature and form of the adverbial. That is, in the SVA type (subject, verb, adverb), the adverbial usually comes after the subject and verb, for example:

- Your children are outside

Whereas the adverbial in the SVOA type, on the other hand, (subject, verb, object and adverb ) normally follows the direct object, e.g. : - He directed his speech at the workers.

Adverb phrase can consist of one adverb or an adverb plus other words before it (premodification) or after it (postmodification). Adverb phrases have many different meanings. In the examples the adverb phrases are in bold. The other words that modify the adverb are underlined.

example	type	used to give information about
<i>We walked <b><u>very</u> carefully</b> across the floor.</i>	manner	how something happens
<i><b>Here</b> is where I was born. That's it. <b><u>Right</u> there.</b></i>	place	where something happens
<i><b>Dad got home very late.</b></i>	time	when something happens

example	type	used to give information about
<b><i>This pill will take away the pain temporarily.</i></b>	duration	how long something happens
<b><i>They almost never invite people to their house these days.</i></b>	frequency	how often something happens
<b>A:</b> <b><i>Want some sugar in your coffee?</i></b> <b>B:</b> <b><i>Only half a spoon, please.</i></b>	focusing	something specific
<b><i>That dog behaves incredibly stupidly!</i></b>	degree	how much or to what degree something happens
<b><i>The train will probably be late.</i></b> <b><i>It doesn't necessarily mean that.</i></b>	certainty or necessity	how certain or necessary something is
<b><i>Unfortunately for me, I can't speak Italian.</i></b>	evaluative	the speaker's opinion of something
<b><i>Personally, I don't see why the party has to start so early.</i></b>	viewpoint	the speaker's perspective or reaction

example	type	used to give information about
<b><i>It rained very heavily this summer. Therefore, many of the vegetables were very small.</i></b>	linking	relationships between clauses and sentences

## Adverb phrases: functions

### Adverb phrases + verbs

We use adverb phrases most commonly to modify verbs. In the examples the adverb phrases are in bold. The verbs that they modify are underlined:

*I exercise **very regularly** and I eat **quite healthily**.*

### Adverb phrases + *be*

We use adverb phrases with *be*. This is especially typical of adverbs of place

*I m **upstairs**. I'll only be a minute.*

*They're re **right there**, on the table.*

### Adverb phrases + adjectives/adverbs

We use adverb phrases to modify adjectives and other adverbs:

*I found it **extremely** difficult to talk to her.*

Adverb phrases + other phrases

We use adverb phrases to modify noun phrases and prepositional phrases:

*That's **quite** a tree.* (it's a tree that is special in some way, e.g. it's very big)

*There was **hardly** anyone at the concert.*

*We climbed **right** over the top of the hill and down again.*

Adverb phrases + determiners

We use adverb phrases to modify determiners, especially words like *all*, *some*, *half*, *many* (quantifiers):

***Only half** of my friends could come to my party.*

***Very few** people have heard of my city. It's very small.*

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