

**Chapter 16: The Phrase**

**Review (Form A)**

**Exercise A** There are ten prepositional phrases in the following paragraph. First, underline each prepositional phrase. Then, underline twice the word or words modified by the phrase. Finally, label the phrase ADJ for adjective phrase or ADV for adverb phrase.

- Adv. 1. At times we treat objects or things
- Adj. 2. as if they were living creatures with human traits.
- Adv. 3. We give mythical names to heavenly bodies.
- Adj. 4. Imagine how drab the reports of asteroids or planets
- Adv. 5. would be without mythical names: we
- Adv. 6. might read in our daily newspapers, "Asteroid
- Adj. 7. Approaches Surface of Sun." As it is,
- Adj. 8. however, we read lively headlines like these:
- Adv. 9. "Icarus Flies Directly into Sol,"
- Adv. 10. and "Mars Meets Venus in Virgo."

**Exercise B** The following paragraph contains fifteen numbered, italicized verbal phrases. On the lines provided, identify these phrases by type. Write PART for participial phrase, GER for gerund phrase, or INF for infinitive phrase.

As I found out last summer, [1] *living through a hurricane* is a nerve-shattering experience that one is not likely [2] *to forget soon*. Last August, we planned [3] *to spend a week on the Gulf Coast*, so that we could swim and enjoy [4] *fishing each day in the Gulf*. The first night, someone [5] *knocking on our motel door* woke us. "A hurricane, [6] *arriving late tonight or early tomorrow morning*, is going [7] *to hit us!*" the motel manager told us. At once, [8] *tossing our possessions into our suitcases*, we left the motel. After [9] *wading through ankle-deep water for a mile*, we took refuge in a school building [10] *solidly constructed of brick and steel*. The hurricane winds, [11] *reaching speeds of a hundred miles an hour*, pounded the little town, [12] *bringing misery and destruction*. The school building, [13] *battered by the storm*, fortunately suffered little damage except for broken windows. [14] We were happy to *discover that most residents had survived* and decided that we wouldn't want [15] *to relive the experience again!*

- |                 |                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. <u>Ger</u>   | 2. <u>Inf</u>   | 3. <u>Inf</u>   |
| 4. <u>Part</u>  | 5. <u>Part</u>  | 6. <u>Part</u>  |
| 7. <u>Inf</u>   | 8. <u>part</u>  | 9. <u>Ger</u>   |
| 10. <u>Part</u> | 11. <u>part</u> | 12. <u>Part</u> |
| 13. <u>Part</u> | 14. <u>Inf</u>  | 15. <u>Inf</u>  |

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# ***Infinitives and Infinitive Phrases***

An **infinitive** is a verb form, usually preceded by *to*, that can be used as a noun, an adjective, or an adverb.

**Noun:** *To sew* requires skill. [*To sew* is the subject of the verb *requires*.]

Norma likes *to sew*. [*To sew* is the direct object of the verb *likes*.]

**Adjective:** The easiest thing *to sew* is a skirt. [*To sew* modifies the noun *thing*.]

**Adverb:** The children were happy *to sew*. [*To sew* modifies the adjective *happy*.]

An **infinitive phrase** consists of an infinitive together with its modifiers and complements. The entire infinitive phrase may act as a noun, an adjective, or an adverb.

**Noun:** *To visit Spain again* is her dream. [The infinitive phrase is used as the subject of the verb *is*. The noun *Spain* is the direct object of *To visit*. The adverb *again* modifies *To visit*.]

**Adjective:** Spain is the country *to visit next*. [The infinitive phrase is used as an adjective modifying the predicate nominative *country*.]

**Adverb:** I am proud *to be of Spanish descent*. [The infinitive phrase is used as an adverb modifying the adjective *proud*. The prepositional phrase *of Spanish descent* modifies the infinitive *to be*.]

**Exercise A** Underline the infinitives in the following sentences. For each infinitive, write N if it is used as a noun, ADJ for adjective, and ADV for adverb.

Adj. 1. Some people need a quiet place to concentrate.

Adv. 2. We were eager to leave.

N. 3. To win is Rodrigo's only goal.

N. 4. He absolutely loves to compete.

Adj. 5. It was a perfect book to review.

**Exercise B** Underline the infinitive phrases in the following sentences. For each phrase, write N if it is used as a noun, ADJ for adjective, and ADV for adverb.

Adv. 1. Her grandfather, who was a lawyer, came to the United States in the 1950s to escape tyranny.

N. 2. To practice law in the United States was his dream.

Adv. 3. He struggled continually to learn the language.

Adj. 4. He faced the difficult task of finding a place to practice law.

Adv. 5. Still, he was grateful to be in a free country.

## Chapter 16: The Phrase

# Appositives and Appositive Phrases

An **appositive** is a noun or pronoun given beside another noun or pronoun to identify or explain it.

The modern artist *Kandinsky* inspired many painters. [The appositive *Kandinsky* identifies the noun *artist*.]

Yuan Zuo, a young Chinese *painter*, was influenced by Kandinsky. [The appositive *painter* explains the noun *Yuan Zuo*.]

An **appositive phrase** is made up of the appositive and its modifiers.

I read the *Iliad*, *an epic poem about the Trojan War*.

**Exercise A** Underline the appositive in each of the following sentences.

1. Agamemnon, a Greek leader, led his warriors to Troy to recapture Helen.
2. Helen, Menelaus' wife, was kidnapped.
3. Paris, the king's son, had kidnapped Helen.
4. Thetis, Achilles' mother, tried to protect her son from death.
5. She dipped him into the Styx, a sacred river.
6. Achilles, a brave Greek warrior, was eventually killed by a poisoned arrow that pierced his heel.
7. The king of the gods, Zeus, tried to remain impartial.
8. Achilles killed Hector, the Trojan king's son.
9. The king of Troy, Priam, saw this spectacle and wept.
10. Achilles mourned the death of his friend Patroclus.

**Exercise B** Underline the appositive phrase in each of the following sentences.

1. San Francisco, home of the famed cable cars, was named for St. Francis.
2. Pennsylvania is named for William Penn, one of its founders.
3. Quebec City, a city in the province of Quebec, is a seaport.
4. New York City, a mixture of many ethnic groups, is the country's largest city.
5. Montreal, the name of a city in Quebec Province, means "Mount Royal."
6. Lake Champlain, a lake in upstate New York, was named for Samuel de Champlain.
7. San Jose, the name of a city in California, means "Saint Joseph" in Spanish.
8. The Spanish, early settlers of California, left their mark with these place names.
9. Native American place names are common in New York, home of the Iroquois and other Native American peoples.
10. All these names, reflections of history, provide clues about the past.

