

Phrases are groups of linked words that make up a sentence.

(The poet) (was writing) (a poem).

You can add more information to the phrases.

(The clumsy poet) (was busily writing) (a dreadful poem).

There are different types of phrase.

Verb phrases

Verb phrases always contain a verb, and they can be expanded using adverbs:

Jane *was combing* her hair.

Jane *was hurriedly combing* her hair.

Noun phrases

Noun phrases always contain a noun, and they can be expanded using adjectives:

Jane was combing *her hair*.

Jane was hurriedly combing *her messy hair*.

Noun phrases can also be expanded using two special types of phrase:

Prepositional phrases, which begin with a preposition:

The girl *with messy hair* was combing it.



Genitive phrases, which show ownership and have 's added to them:

The girl's messy hair needed combing.

Adjective phrases

Adjective phrases always contain an adjective, and they can be expanded using adverbs. They are used with noun phrases:

Jane's hair was *messy*.

Jane's hair was *very messy*.

Adverb phrases

Adverb phrases always contain an adverb, and they can be expanded using more adverbs. They are used with verb phrases:

Jane was *hurriedly* combing her hair.

Jane was *very hurriedly* combing her hair.



Can you pick out the separate phrases making up these sentences?

1. I made a slow journey by train.

2. She agreed enthusiastically to walk Christopher's dog.

What kind of phrases are they?