

# COMPLEMENTS AND PHRASES



# Complements

- A complement is a word or groups of words that completes the meaning of a subject and verb.
  - ▣ Sometimes a subject and a verb express a complete thought: “Birds Fly”
  - ▣ Some subjects and verbs must be completed with other words.
  - ▣ The following contain a subject and a verb, but none express a complete thought:
    - “Tony bought...”
    - “The Eyewitness told...”
    - “Our mechanic is...”
    - “Richard feels...”
  - ▣ All of these ideas need complements.

# Complements

- Complements:
  - Are usually nouns, pronouns, or adjectives
  - Located after or very close to the verb
    - Examples:
      - Tony bought **cars**.
      - The eyewitness told **us** the **story**.
      - Our mechanic is a **poet**.
      - Richard feels **sad**.
  - There are 3 types of complements:
    - Direct objects
    - Indirect objects
    - Subject complements

# Recognizing Direct Objects

- A **direct object** is a **noun** or a **pronoun** that receives the action of a transitive verb.
  - ▣ A direct object can be found by asking **whom?** or **what?** after the action verb.
- Examples:
  - ▣ The message reached the **lawyer**.
    - Reached whom? Lawyer.
  - ▣ Mother invited **Uncle Bill** and **Aunt Clara**.
    - Invited whom? Uncle Bill, Aunt Clara

# Recognizing Indirect Objects

- An **indirect object** is a noun or pronoun that comes after an action verb and before the direct object.
  - ▣ It names the person or thing to which something is given or for which something is done.
  - ▣ Answers the questions **To or for whom?** or **To or for what?** after an action verb.
  - ▣ Usually follows the following pattern: Subject, Verb, Indirect Object, Direct Object.
  - ▣ Find the direct object first, then ask the appropriate question.
- Examples:
  - ▣ I told **them** the **story**.
    - To whom? Them
  - ▣ Dave gave each **car** and **truck** a new **color**.
    - Gave to what? car, truck

# Indirect Objects Vs. Objects of Prepositions

- An indirect object **never** follows the preposition **to** or **for** in a sentence.
  - Examples:
    - Father **bought** **him** a **car**.
      - *Him* is an indirect object. It comes after the verb and before the direct object.
    - Father **bought** a **car** for him.
      - *Him* is the object of the preposition *for* and follows the direct object.

# Subject Complements

- A **subject complement** is a noun, pronoun, or an adjective that follows a linking verb.
  - ▣ It tells something about the subject.
- A **predicate noun** or **predicate pronoun** (**predicate nominative**) follows a linking verb.
  - ▣ It renames or identifies the subject of a sentence
  - ▣ The linking verb acts like an equal sign between the subject and the noun or pronoun.
    - Examples:
      - Ronnie will be the **captain** of our team.
      - Ford's first **car** was the **Model A**.

# Subject Complements

- A **predicate adjective** follows a linking verb and describes the subject of a sentence.
  - Examples:
    - The **flight** to Houston was **swift**.
    - The **saleswoman** seems very **sensitive** to the needs of her costumers.
  
- A **compound subject complement** consists of two or more predicate nouns, pronouns, or adjectives.
  - Examples:
    - My two best **friends** are **Phil** and **Mark**.
    - The **highway** seems **slick** and **icy**.

# Phrase

- A **phrase** is a group of words that functions in a sentence as a single part of speech.
  - Phrases **do not** contain a subject and a verb
    - There are several kinds of phrases:
      - Prepositional
      - Appositive
      - Participle
      - Gerund
      - Infinitive
- Phrases get their names from the word that begins the phrase **or** from the most important word in it.

# Prepositional Phrases

- A prepositional phrase **begins with a preposition** and **ends with a noun or pronoun** called the **object of the preposition**.
- Examples:
  - **Under** the **window**
  - **Near** **them**
  - **At** the **store**
- Prepositional phrases may also have compound objects.
  - Example: **near** the **flowers** and the **trees**

# Prepositional Phrases That Act as Adjectives

- In a sentence, a prepositional phrase can:
  - act as an **adjective** and modify a noun or a pronoun
  - act as an **adverb** and modify a verb, an adjective, or an adverb
- Adjective Phrase:
  - A prepositional phrase that modifies a noun or pronoun by telling **what kind** or **which one**.
  - An adjective phrase usually follows its noun or pronoun.
    - Adjective: The New Mexican climate is warm.
    - Adjective Phrase: The climate of New Mexico is warm.
    - Adjective: The blue-eyed acrobat slipped and fell.
    - Adjective Phrase: The acrobat with the blue eyes slipped and fell.

# Using Prepositional Phrases as Adverbs

- An **adverb phrase** is a prepositional phrase that modifies a verb, adjective, or an adverb.
- Adverb phrases point out:
  - ▣ Where, When, In what manner, To what extent
- Examples:
  - ▣ Adverb: The bus left late.
  - ▣ Adverb Phrase: The bus left after a two-hour delay.
  - ▣ Adverb: Put the package there.
  - ▣ Adverb Phrase: Put the package in the closet.

# Using Appositives in Phrases

- An **appositive** is a noun or a pronoun placed after another noun or pronoun to identify, rename, or explain the preceding word.
- Examples:
  - ▣ The poet **Robert Frost** is much admired.
  - ▣ This antique car, a **Studebaker**, is worth thousands of dollars.
  - ▣ The conquistador **Francisco de Coronado** led a group of 1,100 people looking for gold.

# Using Appositives in Phrases

- An appositive phrase is a noun or pronoun with modifiers.
  - ▣ It is placed next to a noun or pronoun
  - ▣ It adds information or details
- Examples:
  - ▣ The painting, a mural in many bright colors, highlights the entrance.
  - ▣ Volunteers, boys or girls, are wanted.
  - ▣ These poems, “The Sea Gypsy” and “Before the Squall,” are about a love for the sea.

# Using Verbals and Verbal Phrases

- Verbals are verb forms that are used as another part of speech.
  - There are three kinds of verbals:
    - **Participles, gerunds, and infinitives**
  - Participles are used as adjectives
  - Gerunds are used as nouns
  - Infinitives are used as nouns, adjectives, or adverbs.

# Participles

- A participle is a form of a verb that acts as an adjective.
  - **Present participles** usually end in **-ing**
    - going, playing, growing, telling, reading
    - A **growing** baby sleeps much of the day.
    - Many people in New Mexico live in **farming** communities.
  - **Past participles** usually end in **-ed**
  - Some irregular verbs will end in **-t** or **-en**
    - marked, moved, jumped, hurt, chosen
    - The **conquered** territory was under Spanish control.
    - **Troubled**, she asked for advice.

# Participle Phrases

- A participle can be expanded into a phrase by adding more modifiers or complements to it.
  - Examples:
    - The diner, chewing rapidly, called for a waiter.
    - The waiter, eating his lunch, did not respond.

# Gerunds

- A **gerund** is a form of a verb that acts as a noun.
- Usually end in **-ing**
  - ▣ Use of gerunds in sentences:
    - **Subject:** **Remodeling** the building's style was a good idea.
    - **Direct Object:** Michael enjoys **painting**.
    - **Predicate Noun:** His favorite sport is **fishing**.
    - **Object of a preposition:** Lucille never gets tired of **singing**.

# Gerund Phrases

- A gerund phrase is a gerund with modifiers or a complement, all acting together as a noun.
  - Examples:
    - **Gerund with Adjectives:** *The loud, shrill howling* continued all morning.
    - **Gerund with Direct Object:** *Using trees as lumber* is an important part of the New Mexican economy.
    - **Gerund with Prepositional Phrase:** He helped the police by *telling about his experience*.
    - **Gerund with Adverb and Prepositional Phrase:** Pueblo tribe members astound spectators by *dancing skillfully on stage*.

# Infinitives

- An **infinitive** is the form of a verb that comes after the word **to** and acts as a noun, an adjective, or an adverb.
  - Infinitives used as nouns:
    - **Subject:** **To whistle** is difficult for some people.
    - **Direct Object:** As soon as she gets home, she hopes **to write**.
    - **Predicate Noun:** His dream has always been **to travel**.
    - **Object of the Preposition:** The Spaniards had no choice except **to leave**.
    - **Appositive:** Her decision, **to listen**, was a wise one.

# Infinitive Phrases

- An **infinitive phrase** is an infinitive with modifiers or a complement, all acting together as a single part of speech.
- **Infinitive Phrases:**
  - **Infinitive with Adverb:** It will be important **to listen carefully**.
  - **Infinitive with Prepositional Phrase:** **To ski in New Mexico**, you must travel high into the mountains.
  - **Infinitive with Direct Object:** In 1912, The United States Legislature decided **to admit New Mexico** to the Union.
  - **Infinitive with Indirect and Direct Objects:** I need **to give you my new telephone number**.