

Participial Phrases

A participle phrase has a participle (past or present participles) plus any modifiers. This phrase functions as an **adjective**. A past participle usually ends in *-ed*, and a present participle ends in *-ing*.

Example: **Preparing for the lunar eclipse**, we set our alarm clocks.

Example: **Having read about the eclipse**, we were anxious to see it.

Example: The full moon, **suspended in the sky**, was brilliant.

Note: A participial phrase starts with a verbal (participle) but does not have a noun or subject.

Absolute Phrases

It has a noun or pronoun that is modified by a participle/participial phrase. It stands “absolutely” by itself in relation to the rest of the sentence.

Example: **Its wings being damaged by the storm**, the aircraft crashed.

Example: **We took off on schedule**, the weather [being] perfect.

Example: She sped down the highway in her convertible, **her hair fluttering in the wind**.

Note: An absolute phrase has, what looks like, a subject and verb in it.

Appositive Phrases

This phrase has a noun or pronoun and all its modifiers that is placed next to another noun or pronoun to identify it or rename it.

Example: My brother works for Softwarehouse, **a new retail outlet**.

Example: Barry Sanders, **a great running back**, played football for the Detroit Lions.

Note: An appositive phrase is just a group of words with no verbal—it just renames a noun or pronoun.

Prepositional Phrase

This is a phrase that always begins with a preposition and usually ends with a noun or pronoun (called the object of the preposition).

Example: One **of the doors** is locked, and I need the key to open it.

Example: Automatic doors are commonplace **in grocery stores**.

Commonly Use Prepositions

aboard	beside	into	through	beneath
about	besides	like	throughout	inside
above	between	near	to	since
across	beyond	of	toward	
after	but*	off	under	
against	by	on	underneath	
along	concerning	onto	until	
amid	despite	opposite	unto	
among	down	out	up	
around	during	outside	upon	
as	except	over	with	
at	excepting	past	within	
before	for	pending	without	
behind	from	regarding		
below	in	respecting		

*in the sense of “except”