



Three Kinds of Phrases

Prepositional Phrases

Prepositional phrases always begin
with prepositions, and they act
like modifiers (like adjectives or adverbs).

Like an adjective: the bus **at the corner**

Like an adverb: they swam **after school**

Like an adjective: the letter **for him and her**

Appositive Phrases

Appositive phrases are interrupting
definitions that are put (*pos*) beside (*apo*)
what they define. They act like nouns or adjectives.

Robert, *the new student*, arrived late.

The viaduct, *an old Roman design*, was still in use.

Verbal Phrases

Verbals are verby words that are not used as verbs.
There are three kinds of verbals: gerunds, participles, and infinitives.

Gerunds: nouns made out of *-ing* verbs

Thinking is fun.

Participles: adjectives made out of verbs

Thinking quickly, the ice cream man filled the cone.

Completely *broken*, the gate swung freely.

Infinitives: nouns or modifiers made from the *to* form of the verb

To think is fun. (noun)

The man *to see* is Howard. (adjective)

He lived *to read*. (adverb)

Note: We think of the infinitive as one word.

Example: *To think* is regarded as one word.