

LEVEL THREE

in the old times

like a big gate

reading a good book

to paint the fence



LEVEL THREE

Phrases

**A phrase is a group of words
that does not contain
a subject and its predicate
and that acts
as a single part of speech.**

Phrase: A phrase is like a flight of birds; it is one thing made of some things. It is a part of speech made of some words. A phrase is not a complete idea because it is a group of words that has no subject/predicate set and that acts as a **single part of speech**—it behaves like one word.

We might use a simple adjective in a sentence, or we might use a prepositional phrase instead, or we might use a participial phrase instead. The prepositional and participial phrases give us ways to make the adjective idea more elaborate, more developed.

**of the people,
by the people,
for the people**

Phrases are vital to an understanding of grammar. If you do not understand phrases, you do not understand parts of speech or parts of sentence either.

The difference between phrases and clauses: Both phrases and clauses are groups of words, but a clause contains both a subject and its predicate, and a phrase does not. *I walked* is a clause, but *in the woods* is only a phrase. Phrases are *inside* clauses; they are part of clauses.

**Clauses have subjects and predicates.
Phrases do not.**