

LESSON NOTE ON ENGLISH LANGUAGE WEEK 2

SUBJECT: ENGLISH LANGUAGE

TOPIC: Grammar: Phrases

CLASS: JSS3

WEEK: 2

Introduction

A phrase is a group of words that functions as a single unit within a sentence. It does not contain a subject and a predicate hence, cannot convey a complete thought.

Phrases can be used to form sentences by adding other words to them.

Some examples of phrases are:

On the table

Under the tree

At the door

Our French teacher

You can see that none of the above examples of phrases contain a subject and a finite verb.

But you can add other words to them to form sentences.

Examples

- The books are on the table.
- They are standing under the tree.
- Your father is at the door.
- Our French teacher is a woman.

There are five kinds of phrases in English and they are:

1. Noun phrases
2. Verb phrases
3. Prepositional phrases
4. Adjectival phrases
5. Adverbial phrases

1. Noun phrases

Noun phrases generally have a noun and its modifiers or pronoun as its main word or headword.

Examples:

- A beautiful girl
- The old house

2. Verb phrases

Verb phrases have the main verb and its auxiliary (helping) verbs as its main headword.

Examples:

- Is cooking
- Will travel

3. Prepositional phrases

Prepositional phrases begin with a preposition and end with a noun or pronoun (the object of the preposition).

Examples:

- in the bucket
- at the bus-stop

4. Adjectival phrases

Adjectival phrases contain adjective and additional words that modify a noun as the main word.

Examples:

- Very cold
- Extremely hot

5. Adverbial phrases

Adverbial phrases contain adverb and other words that modify a verb, adjective, or adverb as its headword.

Examples:

- Very far
- Quite recently

Note: The headword is the main word to which other words can be added, either before or after.

Exercises/Assignment

Identify which type of phrase is underlined in the following sentences

- All the good students in my class were given double promotion.

- The students arrived at the party much later.
- The book is too complex for a junior class.
- The girl promised to visit her friends in the night.
- My friends might have eaten lunch.
- We enjoyed the fine warm weather.