

English Language

SS2: WK 4/5

Topic: Phrases.

Before the definition of Phrase, let us consider examples and characteristics or features of phrase.

Examples :

1. In the room (no verb)
2. The beautiful girl (no verb)
3. To read without light (verb preceded by to)
4. Reading without light up (-ing Form of verb)
5. The broken bottle (-ed and -en form verb)

FEATURES OF PHRASE

*A phrase is a group of words, e.g. the beautiful girl.

*A phrase does not make sense, e.g. in the room.

*A phrase may not have any verb, e.g. on the table.

Definition of Phrase.

From the examples above, a phrase can be defined as a group of words (with or without a non-finite verb) that does not make sense and which only forms part of the sentence.

TYPES OF PHRASE:

There are three types, namely : Noun phrase, Adjectival Phrase and Adverbial phrase.

1. Noun phrase: the head word must be a noun or pronoun. Examples :

- (a) I saw the village headmaster.
- (b) The man at the gate is my father.

Functions of Noun clause :

1. subject of Verb : when the noun phrase occupies the first position in the sentence, it functions as the subject of the verb that follows :

- (a) Sleeping without light is not something I enjoy.

(b) Subject Complement : When the noun phrase is the same thing or person as the subject, it functions as subject complement. (I) Olu is the doctor

Adjectival phrase : performs the grammatical function of qualifying the noun that precedes it in a sentence. Example : (a) The man standing at the gate is my father.

Adverbial Phrase : An adverbial phrase modifies the verb in the main clause. It indicates time, place, manner, frequency, degree, result of action, condition, purpose, and reason. Examples : I put food on the table. Modifies the verb put.