

LESSON NOTE ON ENGLISH LANGUAGE WEEK 6

SUBJECT: ENGLISH LANGUAGE
TOPIC: Phrases and their grammatical functions
CLASS: SS1
WEEK: 6

Introduction

A sentence is a group of words that begins with a capital letter, it has a subject and a predicate and conveys a complete thought and ends with a full stop, exclamation mark or a question mark.

A phrase is a group of words that function as a single unit within a sentence. It does not contain a subject and a predicate (verb) and does not convey a complete thought.

Examples of phrases

- On the roof
- The lady
- Under the table
- Is cooking, etc.

Types of phrases

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

1. Noun phrase

A noun phrase is a group of words that has a noun as its head word or main word. Articles and modifiers combine with a noun to form a noun phrase.

Examples

- **The bird** is on the roof.
- **Her bag** is under the table.
- Where are **those gifts?**

Functions of a noun phrase

I. A noun phrase can function as the subject of the verb.

Example: The new student (subject) addressed (verb) the class.

In the sentence above, the new student is the performer of the action 'addressed' (which is the verb).

II. A noun phrase can function as the object of the verb.

Example: John killed (verb) the cat (object)

In the sentence above, the cat is the receiver of the action 'killed' (which is the verb)

III. A noun phrase can function as an appositive.

An appositive is a noun or noun phrase that renames or explains another noun or pronoun in a sentence. It provides additional information and is usually set off by commas.

Examples: my friend, the talented artist (appositive), painted a stunning mural on the wall.

Tinubu, the President of Nigeria, is here.

The underlined phrases are noun phrases functioning as an appositive to the subjects (My friend) and (Tinubu).

IV. Noun phrase functioning as the object of the preposition.

Example: He is working towards the door.

The book on the shelf (object of the preposition 'on') caught my attention.

The underlined phrase is a prepositional phrase but if we underline 'the door' after the preposition 'towards', it becomes a noun phrase functioning as the object of the preposition because the noun phrase comes after the preposition.

V. Noun phrase functioning as the subject of the complement. In this type of sentence, you have the subject, the verb and the next thing that follows is a noun phrase.

Example: He (subject) is (verb) the class captain (complement)

- Complements give more information about the subject.
- They come immediately after the verb in a sentence. are the same person.
- The subject and the complement.

Examples: He is the Commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (complement of the subject he).

NOTE: every phrase starts with the grammatical name of the part of speech. E.g. if it is a noun phrase, it begins with a noun so, the most important thing there is a noun and vice versa.

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