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# Adjective and Adverb Phrases A

**14c.** An **adjective phrase** modifies a noun or a pronoun.

**14d.** An **adverb phrase** modifies a verb, an adjective, or an adverb.

**ADJECTIVE PHRASES** The house **with the driveway of red brick** is ours.

**ADVERB PHRASES** **After school** I rode my bicycle **to a friend's house**.

**EXERCISE A** On the line provided, identify the underlined prepositional phrase by writing *ADJ* for *adjective phrase* or *ADV* for *adverb phrase*. Then, draw an arrow from each underlined prepositional phrase to the word it modifies.

**Example** ADV 1. At her first Olympic competition, Sonja Henie was eleven years old.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Sonja was the daughter of a Norwegian fur dealer.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Trained as an ice skater, she competed in the 1924 Olympics at age eleven.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Her costume, a knee-length, flared skirt, made an impression on observers.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. This skirt might have been considered improper on an adult.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. However, opinions at the Olympics four years later had changed.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Sonja left the 1928 Olympics with her first gold medal.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Sonja introduced the elements of dance and showmanship to skating.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Furthermore, Sonja did jumps that had only been performed by men.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Sonja preferred to be treated like someone of great celebrity.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. She was considered temperamental by many.

**EXERCISE B** For each sentence below, underline each adjective phrase once and underline each adverb phrase twice.

**Example 1.** On weekends, many members of my family enjoy ice-skating.

11. Last winter we went to the ice-skating rink many times.
12. Once, my cousins Sarah and Cameron came with us.
13. The ice-skating rink in their hometown closed a few years ago.
14. My mother did figure eights in the center of the rink.
15. Sarah and Cameron especially enjoyed the music from the 1950s.

## Adjective and Adverb Phrases B

**14c.** An **adjective phrase** modifies a noun or a pronoun.

**14d.** An **adverb phrase** modifies a verb, an adjective, or an adverb.

**ADJECTIVE PHRASES** We climbed a mountain **with a steep slope on the west side.**

**ADVERB PHRASES** **On Saturday night,** we went **to a jazz concert.**

**EXERCISE A** Underline each prepositional phrase in the following sentences, and draw an arrow from the phrase to the word it modifies.

**Example 1.** The first perfect score in Olympic Games history was earned by Nadia Comaneci.

- Nadia Comaneci competed in the 1976 Olympic Games in Montreal.
- Her performance on the uneven bars occurred during the first game day.
- This fourteen-year-old girl from Romania received a judges' mark of 10.00.
- In the gymnastic events, Nadia earned a total of three gold medals and seven perfect scores.
- Nadia was very happy about the first perfect score in Olympic history.
- Nadia's achievements led many young girls to gymnastics classes.
- In 1980, she won two gold medals and two silver medals.
- She was also enjoying her fame in Romania.
- She came to the United States in 1989.
- There, she met a fellow gymnast, Bart Conner, whom she later married in Bucharest, Romania.

**EXERCISE B** For each sentence below, underline each adjective phrase once and underline each adverb phrase twice.

**Example 1.** How often do you go to the movies?

- I recently saw an excellent movie about space travel.
- In the movie, the travelers explored distant planets.
- They visited one planet with rings that resembled Saturn.
- Across its surface, the planet also had huge mountain ranges.
- I really enjoyed the scenery in that movie.

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# The Participle

**14e.** A **participle** is a verb form that can be used as an adjective.

- (1) **Present participles** end in *-ing*.  
 (2) **Past participles** usually end in *-d* or *-ed*. Some past participles are formed irregularly.

**PRESENT PARTICIPLES** **Concentrating** carefully, Steve hit the **speeding** ball.

**PAST PARTICIPLES** An **experienced** player, Josh was the **chosen** pitcher.

**EXERCISE A** In each of the following sentences, circle the participle that modifies the underlined noun or pronoun.

**Example 1.** The stretched net suddenly broke.

- The elected captain thanked her teammates.
- The shouting fans encouraged the runners.
- The painted goal posts were hard to miss.
- The cheering crowd stomped their feet in the bleachers.
- The lines on the track, newly painted, guided the runners.
- Spiking the volleyball, she scored another point for her team.
- The sports equipment, mistreated all year, looked old.
- Smiling cheerleaders stepped in front of the crowd.
- The popcorn vendor, calling loudly, climbed the bleachers.
- Feeling hungry, I bought popcorn and a bottle of water.

**EXERCISE B** Underline the participle that is used as an adjective in each of the following sentences, and draw an arrow to the noun or pronoun it modifies.

**Example 1.** I covered the shivering child with a blanket.

- Playing in the sand, the children laughed happily.
- Cheryl's chosen career is engineering.
- Is all this used furniture for sale?
- Tad's older sister, talking excitedly, explained the joke to us.
- The fallen leaves still covered the ground in early spring.

# The Participial Phrase

- 14f.** A **participial phrase** consists of a participle together with its modifiers and complements. The entire phrase is used as an adjective.

**EXAMPLE** Standing in a long line, the group of teenagers waited to see the new movie.

**EXERCISE A** Underline each participial phrase in the following sentences, and draw an arrow from it to the noun or pronoun it modifies.

**Example 1.** Born in 1899, Alfred Hitchcock lived eighty-one years.

1. Alfred Hitchcock, respected by his colleagues, earned an important place among film directors.
2. Known as the “master of suspense,” he created dark, suspenseful moods in his films.
3. Remaining faithful to this trademark tone, he directed movies throughout five decades.
4. Hitchcock’s films, criticized by some, maintained a dramatic flair.
5. Some of the movies directed by Hitchcock are *Dial M for Murder*, *Rear Window*, and *The Birds*.
6. Turning to the television format, Hitchcock also hosted a series for television.
7. The television show hosted by Hitchcock was *Alfred Hitchcock Presents*.
8. It was a mystery series featuring a different story and different actors each week.
9. Still airing as reruns, episodes feature actors such as Robert Redford.
10. Never honored with an Academy Award for best director, Hitchcock remains best director to many fans.

**EXERCISE B** On the lines provided, write sentences using the following word groups as participial phrases. Then, circle the noun or pronoun that each participial phrase modifies.

**Example 1.** talking to her friends Talking to her friends, (Jen) walked by me without stopping.

11. painted a bright yellow \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. blowing wildly in the wind \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
13. frozen solid as a rock \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
14. singing in the shower \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
15. stuffed into my tiny locker \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_