

Name _____

Date _____

Phrases

Definition

A **phrase** is a group of related words that functions as a unit within a sentence but does not contain both a subject and a verb. Unlike clauses, phrases cannot stand alone as complete sentences. They work together to convey meaning and serve specific grammatical functions.

Example

Type	Example	Structure	Function
Noun phrase	"The tall oak tree"	Determiners + adjectives + noun	Functions as a subject, object, or complement
Verb phrase	"has been running"	Helping verbs + main verb	Forms the predicate of a sentence
Prepositional phrase	"under the table"	Preposition + object + modifiers	Modifies nouns or verbs (location, time, manner)
Participial phrase	"swimming in the lake"	Present/past participle + modifiers	Functions as an adjective
Gerund phrase	"reading novels"	Verb + ing + objects/modifiers	Functions as a noun

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Part 1: Multiple Choice Questions

Identify the type of phrase underlined in each sentence about Andean terrace farming.

1. The ancient Inca civilization developed sophisticated farming techniques in the Andes Mountains.

- a) noun phrase
- b) verb phrase
- c) prepositional phrase
- d) participial phrase

2. Carved into steep mountainsides, the agricultural terraces allowed farming in difficult terrain.

- a) noun phrase
- b) verb phrase
- c) prepositional phrase
- d) participial phrase

3. Andean farmers have been using these terraces for over 1,500 years.

- a) noun phrase
- b) verb phrase
- c) prepositional phrase
- d) gerund phrase

4. Growing crops at different elevations helped the Inca protect against crop failure.

- a) gerund phrase
- b) verb phrase
- c) prepositional phrase
- d) noun phrase

5. The impressive stone walls within these agricultural systems prevented soil erosion during heavy rains.

- a) noun phrase
- b) verb phrase
- c) prepositional phrase
- d) participial phrase

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Part 2: Fill in the Blank

Complete each sentence with an appropriate phrase of the type indicated in parentheses.

1. _____ (noun phrase) was one of the most important crops grown on Andean terraces.
2. Inca engineers _____ (verb phrase) complex irrigation systems to water the terrace farms.
3. _____ (prepositional phrase), farmers could grow different crops suited to various climate zones.
4. _____ (participial phrase), the Andean people created a sustainable form of agriculture.
5. _____ (gerund phrase) was essential for successful terrace farming in the mountains.

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Phrases – Answer Key

Part 1: Multiple Choice Questions

1. a) noun phrase ("The ancient Inca civilization" functions as a noun unit)
2. d) participial phrase ("Carved into steep mountainsides" begins with a past participle)
3. b) verb phrase ("have been using" contains the main verb and its helpers)
4. a) gerund phrase ("Growing crops at different elevations" begins with a verb + ing)
5. c) prepositional phrase ("within these agricultural systems" begins with a preposition)

Part 2: Fill in the Blank

Possible answers include:

1. (noun phrase) The nutritious potato / The drought-resistant quinoa / The sacred maize crop
2. (verb phrase) designed and built / had carefully constructed / would regularly maintain
3. (prepositional phrase) On different terrace levels / With ingenious water systems / Through careful planning
4. (participial phrase) Using stones and earth / Adapting to the mountain environment / Supported by community labor
5. (gerund phrase) Harvesting crops in rotation / Managing water resources / Building strong retaining walls