• The pronoun-replacement test is a helpful test for identifying noun phrases. Have students pull sentences from texts they are reading and practice applying the test. Discuss when it might be useful to apply this test.

Prepositions & Prepositional Phrases

Content includes:

• What are prepositions?

• Parts of the prepositional phrase

Discussion Questions & Activities

• Some words that act as prepositions have other functions. The preposition "outside," for example, can function as a noun. (Example: <u>Outside</u> was muddy and gloomy.) Visit **www.chompchomp.com/terms/ preposition.htm** for a list of prepositions. Have students examine the list to see if they can spot additional words with more than one function and write sample sentences that demonstrate this.

• Ending a sentence with a preposition is often discouraged in the world of grammar. However, others argue that that doing so is just fine. After examining prepositions and the role they play in a sentence, ask students to take a side in this debate and to justify their viewpoints with examples.

Using Prepositional Phrases

Content includes:

• Prepositional phrases function as adjectives or adverbs.

• Prepositional phrases and sentence development

Discussion Questions & Activities

• Prepositional phrases often unintentionally affect subject-verb agreement in a sentence, so should these phrases always be ignored when checking for agreement? Have students examine the following sentences: "Some of the pie was eaten." "Some of the peanuts were eaten." Discuss how the object of the preposition determines which verb to use. This is the case when the subject is one of the following words: "some," "all," "most," "many" and "none."

Verbal Phrases

Content includes:

• Verbals: gerunds, participles and infinitives

• Verbal phrases: gerund phrases, participial phrases, infinitive phrases

Discussion Questions & Activities

• A participle is a verb in the present or past participle form. Review these verb forms with students and have them work in groups to create sentences containing participles and participial phrases.

5

Appositive Phrases

Content includes:

• Revealing additional information via appositive phrases

• Identifying and punctuating appositive phrases

Discussion Questions & Activities

• While appositive phrases are usually enclosed in commas, there are instances when commas are not necessary. Have students examine the following sentence: "My friend Mark won the school talent show." Identify the appositive phrase, and then discuss why commas are not necessary to set it off in the sentence.

• Appositive phrases are a useful tool for conveying additional information in a written work. However, overusing this device can result in repetition and a lack of variety. Have students brainstorm other ways to convey information that would otherwise be communicated in an appositive phrase.

Suggested Print Resources

• Lester, Mark. *Grammar and Usage in the Classroom.* Allyn & Bacon, Needham, MA; 2001.

Suggested Internet Resources

Periodically, Internet Resources are updated on our web site at www.LibraryVideo.com

• **owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/**
Click on "Grammar and Mechanics" for detailed explanations and examples.

• **grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/**
The Guide to Grammar & Writing provides in-depth explanations of grammar concepts. Quizzes are also provided to test understanding.

──────────── **TEACHER'S GUIDE** ────────────

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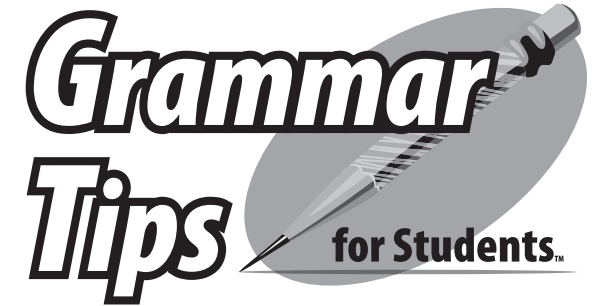
──────── **TITLES IN THIS SERIES** ────────

• **COMMON USAGE ERRORS**
• **SENTENCE STRUCTURE**
• **USING ADJECTIVES, ADVERBS & OTHER MODIFIERS**
• **USING CAPITALIZATION & PUNCTUATION**

• **USING CLAUSES & PHRASES**
• **USING END MARKS & COMMAS**
• **USING NOUNS & PRONOUNS**
• **USING VERBS**

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Grammar Tips for Students™

USING CLAUSES & PHRASES
Grades 5–12

Effective communication, both in the classroom and the real world, is important and grammar is a key element of communication. All students should understand how their choice of words, the order in which they are placed and the punctuation they use work together to express their thoughts in a clear and accurate way. *Grammar Tips for Students* is designed as brief mini-lessons that highlight specific grammar topics using clear explanations and specific examples and offering useful tests and tips for avoiding confusion and misuse.

Because each show contains a series of independent clips, clips can be viewed individually or in groups. Teachers can also choose to show the clips in an order that works for them and their curriculum.

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Program Overview

This video program investigates four types of phrases—appositive phrases, noun phrases, prepositional phrases and verbal phrases (gerund phrases, participial phrases and infinitive phrases). See how these compare to clauses—dependent and independent clauses to be exact! Then, see how these clauses are used to form different types of sentences—simple, compound, complex and compound-complex sentences. Students will step beyond traditional definitions and investigate examples that showcase the ways in which these elements of grammar are applied. *Using Clauses & Phrases* can serve as a useful tool to develop students' oral and written communication skills.

Supporting English Language Learners (ELLs)

• ELLs may not make the same type of grammar errors as native speakers. Native speakers often rely on their ability to determine if a sentence "sounds or looks right." This is difficult for ELLs. ELLs should be encouraged to practice the tests and tips provided and may benefit from additional teaching and reinforcement.

• While sharing grammar tips with ELLs is helpful, it is also important for them to develop reading fluency. By exposing ELLs to texts written in English and encouraging them to read extensively, they can increase their comfort and familiarity with the language and how words are used.

Vocabulary

appositive phrase — A group of words that functions as a noun to identify or rename another noun or noun phrase.

complex sentence — A sentence that contains a single independent clause and at least one dependent clause.

compound sentence — A sentence that contains two or more independent clauses and no dependent clauses.

compound-complex sentence — A sentence that contains at least two independent clauses and one or more dependent clauses.

coordinating conjunction — A conjunction that can connect words, phrases or clauses. There are seven coordinating conjunctions: *and, or, but, so, yet, nor,* and *for.*

dependent clause — A group of words that contains a subject and a verb but cannot stand on its own as a complete sentence. A dependent clause can function as a noun, adverb or adjective and typically begins with a relative pronoun or subordinating conjunction.

gerund — A type of verbal. A gerund is an *–ing* verb that functions as a noun.

independent clause — A group of words that contains a subject and a verb and can stand on its own as a complete sentence. ***(Continued)***

infinitive — A type of verbal. An infinitive is the base form of a verb preceded by "to." It can function as a noun, adjective or adverb in a sentence.

noun phrase — A noun and all of the words that modify it.

object of the preposition — A pronoun, noun or noun phrase that is paired with a preposition to form a prepositional phrase.

participle — A type of verbal that is present participle or past participle in form but functions as an adjective in a sentence. It also refers to a verb form that appears in verb phrases after a helping verb.

preposition — A word used with a pronoun, noun or noun phrase to form a prepositional phrase. Prepositions often indicate location in space or time (e.g., in, on, above, below, before, after).

prepositional phrase — A group of words made up of a preposition and the object of the preposition. This phrase functions as an adjective or adverb, often to locate something in space or time. (e.g., The ball rolled under the table.)

pronoun-replacement test — A test that can be used to identify noun phrases. Words that can be replaced by a third-person pronoun make up a noun phrase.

relative pronoun — A word typically used to introduce an adjective clause. Relative pronouns include *that, which, where, who* and *whose.*

simple sentence — A sentence made up of a single independent clause.

subordinating conjunction — A word typically used to introduce an adverb clause. Subordinating conjunctions include *after, because, before, although, as, if* and *that.*

verbal — An "off-duty" verb. A verbal looks like a verb but functions as another part of speech in a sentence.

verbal phrase — A phrase that includes a verbal — a gerund, participle or infinitive — and all of the words that complement or modify it.

Dependent & Independent Clauses

Content includes:

• What is a clause?

• Differentiating between dependent and independent clauses

Discussion Questions & Activities

• While both dependent and independent clauses have subjects and verbs, dependent clauses cannot stand alone as a complete sentence. Challenge students to find out why this is the case. Have students compare and contrast examples of both dependent and independent clauses.

(Continued)

• All clauses have a subject and verb. However, confusion can occur when examining imperative sentences. Engage students in an investigation of imperative sentences and "you" as the understood subject. Visit **www.arts.uottawa.ca/writcent/hypergrammar/subjpred.html** for additional information.

Using Dependent Clauses

Content includes:

• Dependent clauses can function as adjectives, adverbs or nouns.

• Relative pronouns and subordinating conjunctions

Discussion Questions & Activities

• Dependent clauses can function as different parts of speech. Review the function of adjectives, adverbs and nouns, emphasizing, in particular, the questions that adjectives and adverbs answer. Adjectives tell *which one, how many, what kind* or *whose.* Adverbs tell *when, where, why, how, how often* or *to what degree.*

Sentences: Simple, Compound, Complex, Compound-Complex

Content includes:

• How are different types of clauses combined to form sentences?

• Combining independent clauses to form compound sentences

Discussion Questions & Activities

• A compound sentence made up of two independent clauses can be joined by a comma and coordinating conjunction or with a semicolon (;). Discuss when it might be helpful to use a comma and coordinating conjunction and when it might make sense to simply use a semicolon.

Noun Phrases

Content includes:

• What are noun phrases?

• Using the pronoun-replacement test to identify noun phrases

Discussion Questions & Activities

• One interesting thing about noun phrases is that you can sometimes find one within another. Consider the underlined noun phrase in this sentence: "We searched for a blue house with a red door." "A blue house" and "a red door" are noun phrases within the underlined phrase. Have students use what they know about sentence structure to determine the function of the noun phrases in the sentence. ***(Continued)***