

2. "A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver" (25:11).
3. "He that passeth by, and meddleth with strife belonging not to him, is like one that taketh a dog by the ears" (26:17).
4. "Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall" (16:18).
5. "Wealth gotten by vanity shall be diminished: but he that gathereth by labour shall increase" (13:11).

23. Phrases and Clauses

Some sentences consist merely of a sequence of single words, but others include phrases and clauses. Study the following examples.

The calves bawled.

The calves in the hutches were bawling for their breakfast before we got out of bed.

The second example has an adjective phrase (*in the hutches*), a verb phrase (*were bawling*), an adverb phrase (*for their breakfast*), and an adverb clause (*before we got out of bed*). By becoming skilled in working with phrases and clauses, you will improve your ability to communicate effectively.

Phrases

A *phrase* is a group of related words without a skeleton.

1. A *prepositional phrase* begins with a preposition (like *to*, *for*, or *with*), it ends with an object (usually a noun), and it includes all the modifiers of the object. A prepositional phrase is usually an adjective (modifying a substantive) or an adverb (modifying a verb or another modifier). Sometimes it is a noun because it names something.

The tea in this bed came from Grandmother Petre.

(*In this bed* is an adjective phrase modifying the noun *tea*. *From Grandmother Petre* is an adverb phrase modifying the verb *came*.)

In the other bed is the place where we planted the tea from the meadow.

(*In the other bed* is a noun phrase that names a place. It is the subject. *From the meadow* is an adjective phrase modifying *tea*.)

2. A *verbal phrase* contains a verb form used as another part of speech. The verbal phrase includes the verbal and all its modifiers and complements.

a. A gerund phrase contains an *-ing* form used as a noun.

Standing solidly for the right may not always be easy.

(phrase beginning with the gerund *Standing*)

We should enjoy servicing the Lord.

(phrase beginning with the gerund *servicing*)

Lesson 23

Purpose: To review the definition and recognition of phrases and clauses.

Teaching Suggestions:

At first glance, this lesson may seem quite simple. However, the average student has not likely mastered noun clauses and verbal phrases. When you discuss the verbal phrases, do not stress the identification of the phrases as gerund, participial, or infinitive. The main point in this lesson is that students should recognize these word groups as phrases and identify how they function in the sentence. As you review the parts of speech in later chapters, you will emphasize the different kinds of verbals.