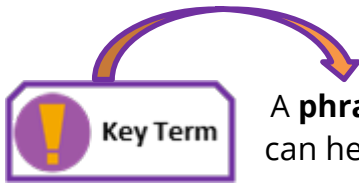


Name: _____ Date: _____

Phrases

Objective: By completing this worksheet, you will be able to improve your writing clarity by using a variety of different phrases.



A **phrase** is a group of words that acts as a single part of speech. Phrases can help improve writing out ideas by doing the following:

- clarifying relationships between ideas
- adding variety
- signaling transitions

Print this worksheet to complete the activity. For each type of phrase, read the description and complete the practice exercise.

Adverbial Phrase: a group of words that **modifies the verb**

An adverbial phrase answers the questions where, when, why, how, and to what extent.

Examples:

→ The character of Solis **responds** to Cervantes' question in a surprising way.

→ With this dialogue, Solis **shows** that he is no longer hopeful.

Practice paragraph: Circle or highlight each adverbial phrase in the description of Solis, a character from *The Underdogs* by Mariano Azuela.

Solis serves as a young revolutionary in the Mexican Revolution. At first, he expresses enthusiasm. Later, he questions the Revolution's value. He views it through different eyes and loses faith in the Revolution's purpose.

Participial Phrase: a group of words that **modifies a noun or proper noun** and begins with a past or present participle (smiling, known, hiding, exited, running). A participial phrase functions as an adjective.

Examples:

- Scaling the crags in bare feet, **Demetrio** shows that he is an experienced climber.
- **The sierra**, wrapped in the dark of night, is the perfect hiding place for Demetrio.

Practice paragraph: Circle or highlight each participial phrase in the description of Demetrio, a character from *The Underdogs* by Mariano Azuela.

Demetrio advances the plot of the story through his actions. He gathers a group of men, called forth by three blasts from a horn, on the side of a mountain. Knowing that his men will follow him anywhere, Demetrio leads them into battle against the soldiers.

Prepositional Phrase: a group of two or more words that starts with a **preposition**

A prepositional phrase acts as a noun, an adjective, or an adverb.

Examples:

- Luis Cervantes is an educated man from the city.
- Demetrio holds Cervantes prisoner in a small mountain village.

Practice paragraph: Circle or highlight each participial phrase in the description of Luis Cervantes, a character from *The Underdogs* by Mariano Azuela.

Luis Cervantes joins the army but decides that he is on the wrong side. He finds the revolutionaries in the mountains. Cervantes has training as a doctor, so he helps Demetrio, who has been wounded.

Absolute Phrase: a group of words that **add information to a text**, but do not modify a specific word in a sentence

Absolute phrases contain a noun and a participle and are set apart from the sentence by a comma.

Examples:

- A barber back in the city, Venancio sees himself as well-informed in most matters.
- Venancio, his ego bruised, stands aside to let Cervantes tend to Demetrio's wound.

Practice paragraph: Circle or highlight each absolute phrase in the description of Venancio, a character from *The Underdogs* by Mariano Azuela.

A man of inflated ego, Venancio is insulted when he is replaced as Demetrio's doctor. His good mood returns, ears always alert to praise, when Cervantes calls him "gifted."