

Grammar review: adverb phrases

An adverb phrase is a group of words that serves the purpose as an adverb. An adverb is a word used to modify a verb, an adjective or another adverb.

Study the examples given below.

He behaved rudely. (Verb – behaved; adverb – rudely)

Here the word 'rudely' explains how he behaved.

We can express the same idea using an adverb phrase.

He behaved in a rude manner.

Here the phrase 'in a rude manner' also explains how he behaved. As it modifies the verb it acts as an adverb.

Another example is given below.

I am typing now. (Here the adverb 'now' modifies the verb 'am typing')

I am typing at the moment. (Here the adverb phrase 'at the moment' modifies the verb 'am typing'.)

Computers were expensive then. (Adverb – then)

Computers were expensive in those days. (Adverb phrase – in those days)

He fell down. (Adverb – down)

He fell to the ground. (Adverb phrase – to the ground)

Study the adverbs and adverb phrases equivalent to them.

Bravely – in a brave manner or with bravery

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Swiftly - in a swift manner, or with swiftness

Beautifully - in a beautiful style

Formerly - in former times, or once upon a time

Recently - just now or at a recent date

Soon - before very long

There - at the place

By using adverb phrases instead of adverbs, you can add variety to your writing.