

Adjective Phrases

Sometimes a group of words does the work of an adjective.

Study the following examples.

The mayor was a wealthy man.

The mayor was a man of great wealth.

In sentence 1, the adjective *wealthy* says what sort of man the mayor was. In sentence 2, the group of words 'of great wealth' also says the same thing. It qualifies the noun *man* as an adjective does. It therefore does the work of an adjective and is called an adjective phrase.

Definition

An adjective phrase is a group of words that does the work of an adjective.

The magistrate was a kind man. (Here the adjective *kind* modifies the noun *man*.)

The magistrate was a man with a kind heart. (Here the adjective phrase 'with a kind heart' modifies the noun *man*.)

They lived in a stone house.

They lived in a house built of stone.

The workers belonged to a hill tribe.

The workers belonged to a tribe dwelling in the hills.

Study the following adjectives and the adjective phrases that are equivalent to them.

A golden necklace - a necklace made of gold

A white coat - a coat of white color

A jungle track - a track through the jungle

A deserted city - a city with no inhabitants

The French flag - the flag of France

A wooden hut - a hut built of wood

A blank page - a page with no writing on it