

Introductory Phrases

Introductory phrases also set the stage for the main action of the sentence, but they are not complete clauses. Phrases don't have both a subject and a verb that are separate from the subject and verb in the main clause of the sentence [as dependent clauses do]. Common introductory phrases include prepositional phrases, appositive phrases, participial phrases, infinitive phrases, and absolute phrases.

- To stay in shape for competition, athletes must exercise every day. (introductory infinitive phrase, main clause)
- Barking insistently, Smokey got us to throw his ball for him. (introductory participial phrase, main clause)
- A popular and well respected mayor, Bailey was the clear favorite in the campaign for governor. (introductory appositive phrase, main clause)
- The wind blowing violently, the townspeople began to seek shelter. (introductory absolute phrase, main clause)
- After the adjustment for inflation, real wages have decreased while corporate profits have grown. (introductory prepositional phrases, main clause)

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/607/03/>

Appendix #19b