Phrases:

A phrase is a group of words which does not have a subject and a verb and functions as one unit: VP, PP, gerund phrase, participle phrase, and infinitive phrase.

A. VP

-it includes the primary verb and auxiliaries: we *had gone.*

B. PP

-PP includes a preposition and its object, plus any modifiers of the preposition or the object.

He fell *on the street* (prep + Object)

We stood *very* near the door. (mod of prep *near*)

He ran through the *tall* grass. (mod of obj *grass*)

See list of some of prepositions at p. 79-80.

Functions of PP

PP functions as an adjective or an adverb:

-adj

The girl [in the car] waved her scarf. (mod of substantive)

He was [within the law]. (adjective compl.)

adv.

The man spoke [with accent]. (mod of verb)

The boy is quick [on his feet]. (mod of adj)

The address is large enough [for her]. (mod of adv)

[In fact,] I forgot to ask. (mod of sentence)

PP may function as substantive:

[In the library] is the best place to study. (subject)

Patterns of PP
- S- V - O- Mod
       [Prep.- Mod- Obj]
I saw a boy [with a red wagon].
 - S- V- Mod
      [Prep.- Obj]
We stood [just inside the front door].
 - S- V- Mod
      [Mod- prep - Mod- Obj]
They strolled through the woods and down the slope.
 - S- V- Compound Mod
      [prep-obj and prep- obj]
We prefer government by the people and for the people].
 - S- V- O- Mod
      [prep and prep - Obj]

The carpenter worked with and by a hammer.

PP and Punctuation:

PP is set off by commas if :

1. Introductory PP that may be confused with the sentence:

Across the street, lights were shining brightly.

2. PP as a sentence mod:

Cats, on the other hand, are independent.

The PP and Indirect object:

- The PP functions as an indirect object:

They gave *me* a tie→ They gave a tie [to me].

 She offered *to Ali* a prize→ She offered a prize [to Ali].

Phrases within Phrases

- S- V- O- Mod

         Prep- Obj- Mod

                 Prep-prep

Phrases within Phrases
- S- V- O- Mod
         Prep- Obj- Mod
                Prep-obj
He lived in the house at the top of the mountain.
C. Gerund Phrase
- gerund phrase→ Gerund+ {S, O, Compl., Adverbial mod}
Getting rich quickly may distorts one's values.
He denied *that having happened.* (S+g)
The child admitted *breaking the car.* (G+O)
Being patient is important. (G+Adj)
Becoming a surgeon is Ali's dream. (G+subsant. Compl.)
Writing well requires a lot of practice. (G+adv)