Hello. I'm Margot Politis. Welcome to Study English IELTS preparation.

Today we're going to focus on word form groups – *noun*, *verb* and *preposition phrases*.

Then, we'll look at some words that can be used as both *nouns* and *verbs,* and we'll learn how to tell which is which.

But first, we visit an automotive factory – a place where they build cars - and we see how a new piece of machinery is helping to avoid mistakes in the manufacturing process.

Here, we have two faults, which are very common in the automotive industry, where the weld has deviated from the seam here.

Paint and grease are very common faults in the automotive industry and where we've welded over the paint, you can see that there's bubbles in the weld. Typically we call this porosity.

At the moment, you only take a sample of the cars. You're not able to test every weld in every car, and that's a major advantage of our technology. We can test every weld in every car.

Understanding English is much easier if you understand how words can be grouped together. Knowing the function of a group of words can help you to follow a sequence of ideas when you're reading or listening.
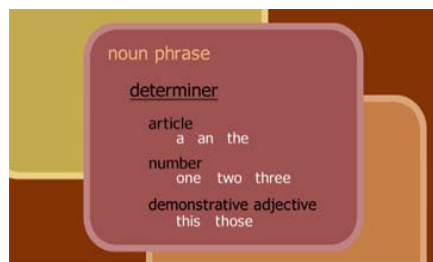
The main word form groups are *noun phrases*, *verb phrases* and *preposition phrases*.

Let's begin with *noun phrases*.

A noun phrase is made up of a *determiner.*

That might be an *article*, like 'a', 'an' or 'the'.

A *determiner* could be a *number*, like 'one' 'two' or 'three'.

Or it could be a *demonstrative adjective*, for example 'this' or 'those'.

As well as a determiner, a noun phrase can have a *modifier*.

A *modifier* can be an *adjective*, like 'big', 'green' or 'impressive'.

Or it could be a *possessive,* like 'my', or 'John's'.

And finally, a noun phrase must have a *noun*.

An example of a noun phrase is 'the IELTS test'.

It has a *determiner*, a *modifier* and a *noun*.

Now, let's take a look at a *verb phrase*.

There are a variety of verb phrases.

The simplest verb phrase is a single *main verb* standing alone.

Other verb phrases are formed by an '*auxiliary verb + main verb'* or different combinations of '*auxiliary verbs + main verbs'*.

For example:

"She 'finished' her homework."

"She 'had finished' her homework."

"She 'was required to finish' her homework."

"She 'finished doing' her homework."

OK. So that's *noun phrases* and *verb phrases*. There are also *preposition phrases*.

A preposition phrase begins with a *preposition*. It could be a *preposition of time*, *place* or *direction*.

So a preposition phrase starts with words such as 'at', 'on', 'during', 'up' or 'down'.

Let's put a *noun*, *verb* and *preposition phrase* together.
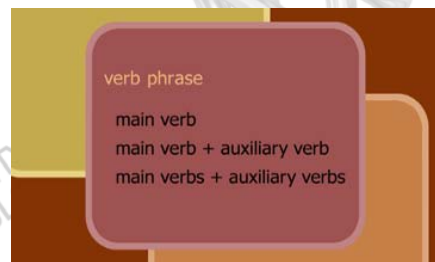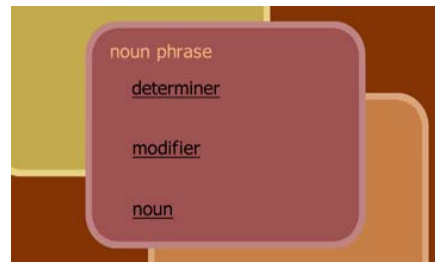
In the sentence:

"The IELTS test finished at one o'clock on Friday."

we have a *noun phrase*, a *verb phrase*, and a *preposition phrase*.

The function of *verb*, *noun* and *preposition phrases* depends on their position in the sentence.

Noun phrases are often *subjects*.

They usually come before the *verb phrase* in a sentence. The *noun phrase* tells us everything about the verb in the clause that follows.

Let's listen to Dr Trevor Gore. He's talking about faults or weaknesses that occur at points that have been welded together.

See if you can tell what is the function of the word 'weld'.

Here, we have two faults, which are very common in the automotive industry, where the weld has deviated from the seam here.

Dr Gore says: "The weld has deviated from the seam."

'The weld' is a *noun phrase.*

It contains a *determiner* 'the',

and a *noun* 'weld'.

'The weld' is a *noun phrase* that functions as the subject of this clause.

It's followed by the *verb phrase* 'has deviated', and then the *preposition phrase* 'from the seam'.

Let's listen to Dr Gore use the word 'weld' in a different clip. What is the function of 'weld' in this context?

Paint and grease are very common faults in the automotive industry and where we've welded over the paint, you can see that there's bubbles in the weld.

He says: "We have welded over the paint".

The *subject* is 'we'.

'Have welded' is the *verb phrase.* It functions as the *verb* of the sentence.

So here, 'weld' is used as a *verb*.

Notice that 'over the paint' is the *preposition phrase*.

There's one more use of the word 'weld' in the story.

At the moment, you only take a sample of the cars.

You're not able to test every weld in every car, and that's a major advantage of our technology.

We can test every weld in every car.

He uses 'weld' twice.

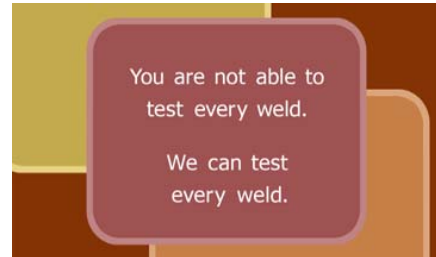He says with the old technology: "You are not able to test every weld."

But when talking about the new technology he says: "We can test every weld".

In both of these sentences, 'weld' occurs with a *determiner*.

The *determiner* is 'every'. So weld is used as part of a *noun phrase* - 'every weld'. It's a *noun*.

It occurs after the *verb phrases* 'are not able to test, and 'can test'.

So here the *noun phrase* 'every weld' is an *object*.

We've seen how different word forms can perform different functions.

For example, 'weld' is used in today's story as both a *noun* and a *verb*.

There are quite a few words in English that use the same word for both the *noun* and *verb* form.

Listen for some other examples.

Paint and grease are very common faults in the automotive industry and where we've welded over the paint, you can see that there's bubbles in the weld. Typically we call this porosity.

At the moment you only take a sample of the cars. You're not able to test every weld in every car, and that's a major advantage of our technology. We can test every weld in every car.

Dr Gore says that:

"You only take a sample of the cars."

The word 'sample' can be used as a *verb* or a *noun*. What is it in this sentence?

'Sample' occurs after a *determiner* 'a'.

So we know that it is the *noun* in a *noun phrase*.

He also says: "You are not able to test every weld in every car."

Like 'sample', 'test' can be a *noun* and a *verb*. Here, 'test' is part of the *verb phrase* 'are not able to test'. It's a *verb*.

So you can see that it's a good idea to study a sentence closely for *noun*, *verb* and *preposition phrases* if you're confused about meaning.
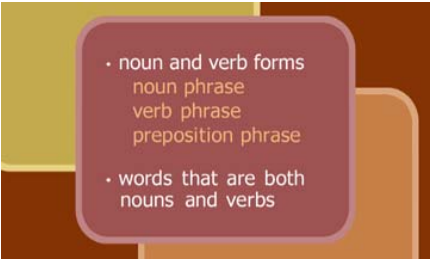
Let's take a quick look back over what we've looked at today.

We practiced identifying and using *noun* and *verb* forms in different functions.

- noun and verb forms
  noun phrase
  verb phrase
  preposition phrase
- words that are both
  nouns and verbs

We looked at what makes a *noun phrase*, a *verb phrase* and a *preposition phrase*.

And we finished by looking at words that are both *nouns* and *verbs*.

There are many more examples and exercises on the Study English website. So don't forget to log on for some more practice. It's at abcasiapacific.com/studyenglish.

And I'll see you next time. Bye bye.