Subordinate Word Groups

- Prepositional phrase: begins with a preposition (*at, by, for, from, in, of, on, to, or with*) and usually ends with a noun or noun equivalent; functions as an adjective (nearly always follows the noun or pronoun it modifies) or adverb (can modify a verb, another adverb or an adjective and appear nearly anywhere in a sentence)

- Verbal phrase: a verb form that does not function as the verb of a clause, including infinitives (the word *to* plus the base form of a verb), present participles (the *-ing* form of a verb), and past participles (verb usually ending in *-d, -ed, -n, -en, or -t*)

- Participial phrase: always function as adjectives, frequently appear immediately following the noun or pronoun it modifies, and the verbal is either present or past participles

- Gerund phrase: built around present participles (verb forms ending in *-ing*), always function as a noun

- Infinitive phrase: usually constructed around to plus the base form of the verb

- Appositive phrase: describe nouns or pronouns

- Absolute phrases: modifies a whole clause or sentence, not just one word

- Subordinate clauses: patterned like sentences, having subjects and verbs and sometimes objects or compliments, but function as adjectives, adverbs, or nouns (adjective, adverb, or noun clauses)