Sometimes a group of words can does the work of an adjective. Read the sentences given below:

a) My grandfather was a wealthy man.
b) My grandfather was a man of great wealth.

In sentence (a), the word **wealthy** modifies the noun man. It therefore does the work of an adjective. In sentence (b), the group of words **of great wealth** tells us what sort of a man my grandfather was. It qualifies the noun **man** just as an adjective does. A group of words which does the work of an adjective is called an **adjective phrase**.

More examples are given below:

The chief lived in a wooden house. (Adjective – wooden)
The chief lived in a house built of wood. (Adjective phrase – built of wood)
They belong to a hill tribe. (Adjective – hill)
They belong to a tribe dwelling in the hills. (adjective phrase – dwelling in the hills)

**Exercise**

In each of the following sentences replace the adjective in bold letters by an adjective phrase of the same meaning.

1. The King wore a **golden** crown.
2. It is a **white** elephant.
3. He lived in a **stone** house.
4. There was an **earthen** pot on the table.
5. She wore a **diamond** necklace.
6. Much has been said about the **Swiss** scenery.
7. The **Spanish** flag flew at the top of the mast.
8. That was a **brave** act.
9. It was a **horrible** night.
10. **Heroic** deeds are worthy of admiration.
11. They went by **Siberian** railway.
12. I have passed several **sleepless** nights.

**Answers**

1. The King wore a crown **made of gold**.
2. It was an elephant **with a white skin**.
3. He lived in a house **built of stone**.
4. There was a pot **made of earth** on the table.
5. She wore a necklace **made of diamond**.
6. Much has been said about the scenery of Switzerland.
7. The flag of Spain flew at the top of the mast.
8. That was an act of bravery.
9. It was a night full of horror.
10. Deeds of heroism are worthy of admiration.
11. They went by the railway running through Siberia.
12. I have passed several nights without sleep.