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**.