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Topic

Clauses and Phrases

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Both clauses and phrases are basic components
of writing sentences.

What are clauses?

A clause is a group of words have both a subject and a verb. Some clauses are independent, they express a complete thought as a complete sentence. Some clauses are dependent, they cannot stand alone. They have a subject and a verb, but they do not express a complete thought. It is also called subordinate clause.

Examples of Clauses

1. When I get home.

(dependent or subordinate clause)

2. The lights are not on.

(independent clause)

3. When you wake up.

(dependent or subordinate clause)

4. Put it on the shelf.

(independent clause-understood subject "you")

5. Since it fell on the floor.

(dependent or subordinate clause)

Types of clauses:

Independent and dependent

There are three main types of dependent clauses:

1. Adverbial clauses
2. Adjective or relative clauses)
3. Noun clauses

These are named by the way they function in a sentence.

An adjective clause describes or gives more information about a noun-tells us which one, what kind, or how many.

Example:

The bag that someone left on the bus belongs to Mrs. Smith.

An adverb clause describes or gives more information about the verb-tells us when, where, how, to what extent, or under what condition something is happening.

Example:

She cried because her doll was broken.

A noun clause takes the place of a noun in the sentence.

Example:

When she will arrive is dependent on traffic.

What are phrases?

A phrase is a group of two or more words that does not have the subject and verb combination. It can contain a noun or a verb. Essentially, a phrase provides some

additional information to the sentences. A phrase can never stand alone as a sentence.

Example:

The dance was held at the reception hall.

“At the reception hall” is a phrase. It does not have a subject or predicate, and it cannot stand alone as a sentence.

Examples of Phrases

1. the boy on the bus (noun phrase)
2. will be running (verb phrase)
3. in the kitchen (prepositional phrase)
4. very quickly (adverb phrase)
5. Martin and Jan (noun phrase)

There are eight common types of phrases:

1. noun
2. verb
3. gerund
4. infinitive
5. appositive
6. participial
7. prepositional
8. absolute

Noun Phrase:

A noun phrase consists of a noun

The confused tourist was lost.

The flu clinic had seen many cases of disease.

Verb Phrases

A verb phrase consists of a verb

He **was waiting** for the rain to stop.

She **was** upset.

You have been sleeping for a long time.

You might enjoy a massage.

He was eager to eat dinner.

Gerund Phrases

A gerund phrase is simply a noun phrase that starts with a gerund.

Walking in the rain can be difficult.

Getting a promotion is exciting.

Going for ice cream is a real treat.

Infinitive Phrases

An infinitive phrase is a noun phrase that begins with an infinitive verb.

I tried **to see the stage**.

To see Niagara Falls is mind-boggling.

I went to Spain **to study the language and culture**.

Appositive Phrases

An appositive phrase restates and defines a noun.

A cheetah, **the fastest land animal**, can run 70 miles an hour.

My idea, **a recycling bin for the office**, was accepted by the boss.

Her horse, **an Arabian**, was her pride and joy.

Participial Phrases

A participial phrase begins with a past or present participle.

Washed with my clothes, my cell phone no longer worked.

Knowing what I know now, I wish I had never come here.

Painted a brilliant white, the small room appeared bigger.

Prepositional Phrases

A prepositional phrase begins with a preposition and can act as a noun, an adjective or an adverb.

The book was **on the table**.

We camped **by the brook**.

He knew it was **over the rainbow**.

Absolute Phrases

An absolute phrase has a subject, but not an action verb.

His tail between his legs, the dog walked out the door.

Their heads hanging down, the whole group apologized.

The entire team, **their uniforms muddy and stained**, shouted for joy.

Thanks