Functional English SS150 2+1

COURSE IN CHARGE:

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WEEK # 2 Phrases and Clauses

BUILDING BLOCKS OF A SENTENCE:

- ▶ Phrases
- ▶ Clauses

What is a Phrase?

- a group of words which does not have a subject and/or a verb
- part of a clause or a larger sentence, and are meaningless alone.

For example,

- In the evening
- A sincere and honest leader
- Extremely beautiful
- Very strong and courageous

More Examples:

- Walking down the street, I saw a large truck.
- It was a sunset of great beauty.
- She lives in a beautiful town.

▶ They occupy the same function slot in a sentence as a single word to make it more descriptive and informative.

For example,

► Mary sings well.

Adv

further elaborated as

My little cousin Mary sings very well.

S (NP)

Adv (AP)

▶ The children from Class 2A sang some beautiful folk songs.

Exercise: make the boldfaced words more descriptive and concrete.

- 1. Karen Smith is a nurse.
- 2. The commandos made their way silently through the jungle.
- 3. This time, the plan will work.
- 4. A snake is dangerous.
- 5. The weather is pleasant.

Types of Phrases:

- ▶ NOUN PHRASE: a noun or a pronoun as its head
 - ▶ **Big dogs** frighten me.
 - ▶ He kicked the blue ball.
- ► ADJECTIVE PHRASE: an adjective as its head
 - ► His behavior was absolutely unbelievable.
 - She was slightly annoyed.
- ► <u>ADVERB PHRASE</u>: an adverb as its head
 - ► He got out of bed very slowly.
 - ▶ Please walk more quickly.

- VERB PHRASE: a verb as its head.
 - ▶ I have read this book.
 - ▶ Tina should have known what to do.
- PREPOSITIONAL PHRASE: It consists of a preposition followed by a noun, pronoun, noun phrase or adverb.
 - ▶ Who's talking to tom?
 - ▶ The cat was on the table.
- ► There is a special class of phrases too, which is used to describe nouns. (considered as clauses)
 - Running down the hill, John lost his hat.
 - ▶ Badly damaged by fire, the castle was never rebuilt.

ACTIVTIY:

▶ Select ten sentences from different places. Underline the phrases in them. Also, try to determine the types of the phrases. There is a solved example below:

The 1960s (NP) were a time of great liberalization (NP), when the youth (NP) thought it could right (VP) all wrongs (AdjP).

STUDY TIP:

Try to use good vocabulary in your phrases.

What is a Clause?

- a group of words which has a subject and a verb
- ▶ A sentence may contain one or more clauses.

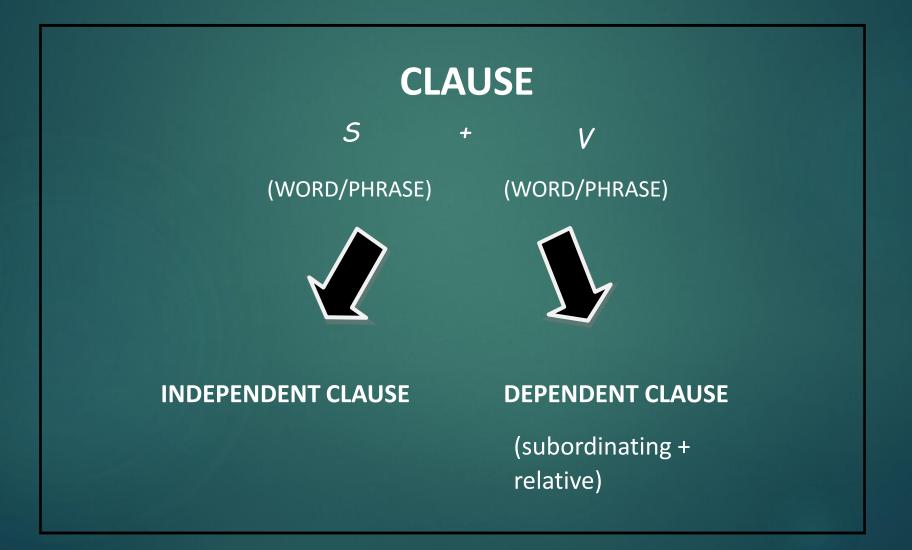
For example,

- Suzy is a very talented girl.
- I will see you when I come.
- Tina doesn't have a typewriter, but her father can arrange one for her.

Exercise: write P for phrases, C for clauses, and S for sentences

- 1. The mountain was covered with snow.
- 2. If she will not come.
- 3. On the top of the house.
- 4. All roads were blocked because of the rain.
- 5. Which is made up of gold.
- 6. The blue Mercedes.
- 7. The rainbow soon faded away.
- 8. Even though she was ill.

Types of Clauses



▶ Independent Clause: can stand alone, makes complete sense.

For example,

- ▶ He drinks coffee, but she drinks tea.
- Are you joining me or will you stay here?

▶ Dependent Clause: cannot stand alone, does not make complete sense.

For example,

- Because I wanted to meet her
- After my brother had left

Support is needed

- ▶ I called her because I wanted to meet her.
- After my brother had left, I had lunch.

a subordinating conjunction or a pronoun embedded in them makes the clause a dependent clause.

Types of DC

- Subordinating Clause: begins with a subordinating conjunction
- Relative Clause: begins with a relative pronoun (who, which, whose, that, whom) or a relative adverb (when, where, why). It has TWO functions.
 - ▶ to identify a noun
 - ▶ I told you about the woman who lives next door.
 - ▶ The man who we met yesterday is very nice.

Such RCs are called defining relative clauses as they define some specific noun.

- to give extra information about a noun
 - ▶ Jim, who we met yesterday, is very good at Maths.
 - ► Karachi, which is a metropolitan city, is an expensive city.

This type of RC is called a non-defining relative clause.

Relative clauses = Adjective Clauses as they describe a noun.

Exercise: DC or IC? If DC, SC or RC

- 1. Before Bill gets here.
- 2. Mary was reading the newspaper.
- 3. Whenever I want your help.
- 4. Who we met yesterday
- 5. This is not how you behave with your parents.
- 6. Before the semester starts.
- 7. John didn't break the window.
- 8. Which we bought from my uncle's shop.

HOME TASK

Exercise # 5, page # 11

Thank you ©