

Phrases, Clauses and Sentence



Lecture One

[illegible]

ENGLISH GRAMMAR

Phrase

Types & Examples



Phrase

Definition

A group of words that:

- Stands together as a single grammatical unit.
- Does not contain a subject and verb.

Examples

noun phrase

Four hostile newspapers
are more dangerous than a
thousand bayonets!



An army marches
on its stomach.

adverbial phrase

England is a nation
of shopkeepers.

adjectival phrase

Poll Question

What is a phrase ?

a. a group of words with subject and verb

b. a group of words without subject and verb

Answer

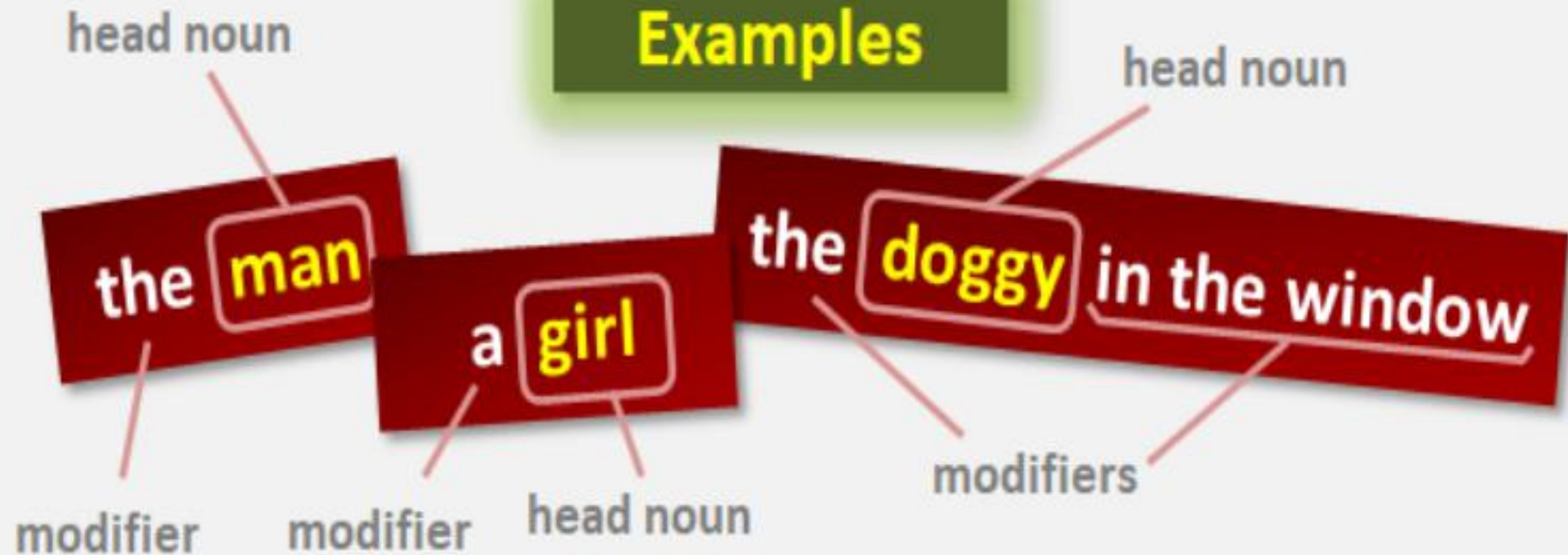
Option B

Noun Phrase

Definition

a group of words headed by a noun that includes modifiers

Examples

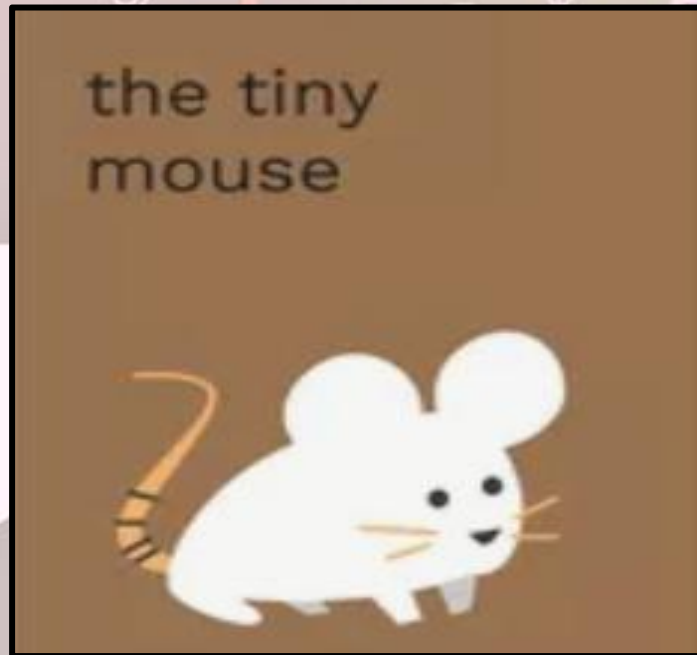


g



writing
letter
each
mastering
reading
literature

Poll Question



Identify the phrase :

- a. adverb phrase*
- b. adjective phrase*
- c. absolute phrase*
- d. noun phrase*

Answer

Option D

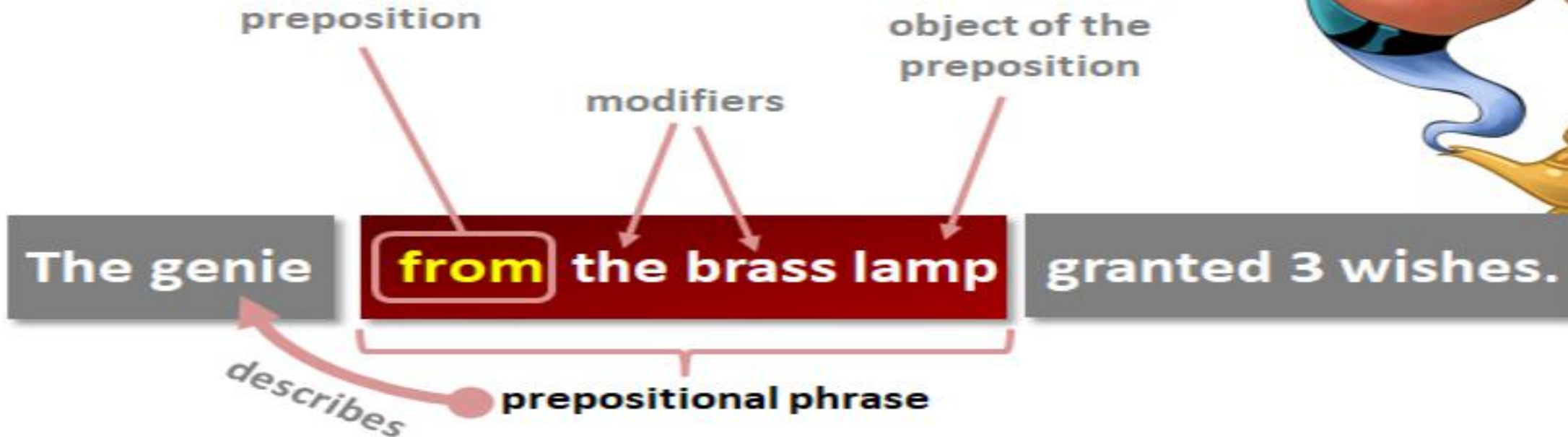
Prepositional Phrase

Definition

A group of words that consists of:

- a preposition
- the object of the preposition
- any modifiers.

Example



Adverbial Phrase

Definition

a group of words that functions as an adverb

Example

We will escape **in the morning.**

adverbial phrase



Adverbial phrases contrast with normal adverbs and adverbial clauses...

We will escape **later.**

normal adverb

We will escape **when the sun rises.**

subject

verb

adverbial clause

tell us when, where, how, or why an action occurs

Adverbial Phrase

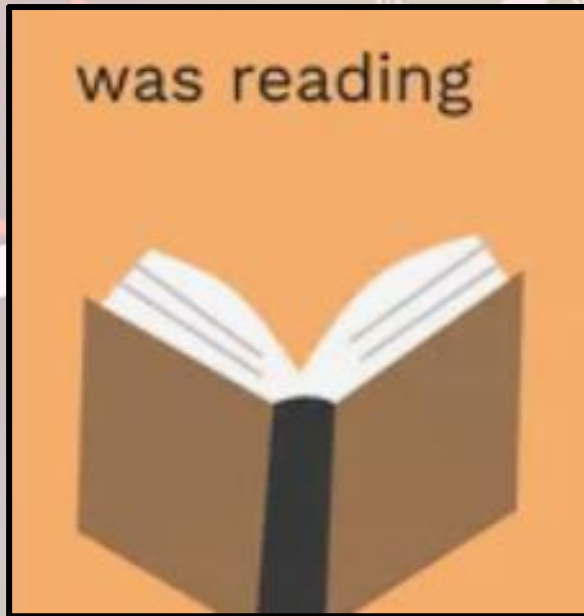


She sat **on the broomstick.**

tells us where she sat

Note: no subject and verb in the phrase

Poll Question



Identify the phrase :

- a. verb phrase*
- b. adjective phrase*
- c. absolute phrase*
- d. noun phrase*

Answer

Option A

Commas after Fronted Adverbials



Use a comma after a fronted adverbial.

Examples

At dusk, lower the flag. ✓

fronted adverbial phrase

When the rooster crows, raise the flag. ✓

(clause subject)

(clause verb)

fronted adverbial clause

The Adjective Phrase

- ❖ An adjective phrase tells *what kind* or *which one*.
- ❖ An adjective phrase almost always FOLLOWS the word it modifies.

One of my friends showed me a book about a shark attack.



- *Of my friends* modifies the pronoun *One*, telling which one.
- *About a shark attack* modifies the noun *book*, telling what kind.

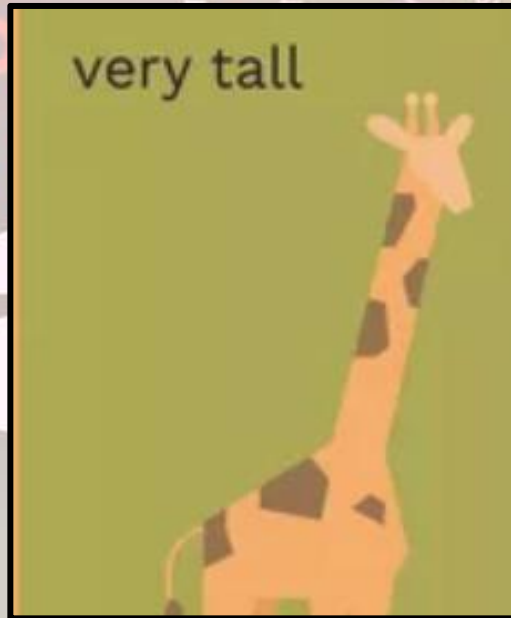
Adjective Phrase (Example 1)



Adjective Phrase (Example 2)



Poll Question



Identify the phrase :

- a. adverb phrase*
- b. adjective phrase*
- c. absolute phrase*
- d. noun phrase*

Answer

Option B

Infinitive Phrase

Definition

the infinitive form of a verb plus any complements and modifiers

Example

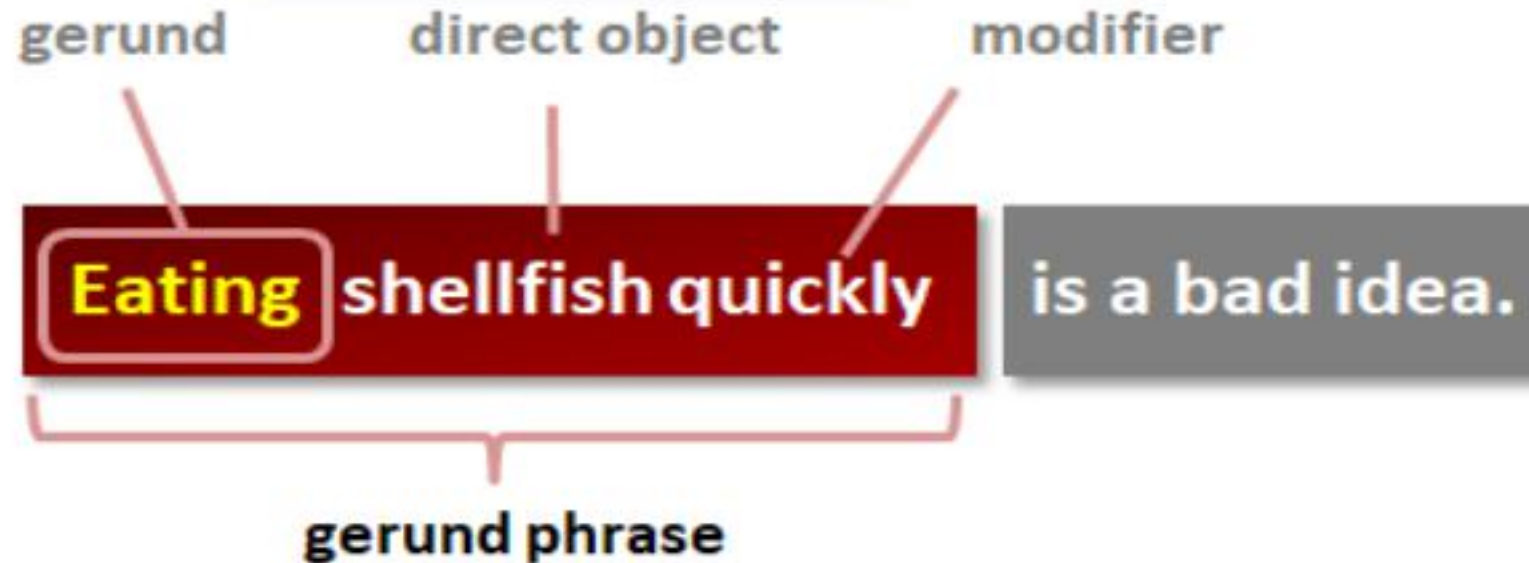


Gerund Phrase

Definition

a phrase that consists of a gerund, its object, and any modifiers

Example



Poll Question



Identify the phrase :

- a. adverb phrase*
- b. adjective phrase*
- c. absolute phrase*
- d. noun phrase*

Answer

Option A

Absolute Phrase

- Absolute phrase consists of the following:
 - Participle or participial phrase
 - A noun or pronoun that the participle or participial phrase modifies
 - Any other modifiers of that noun or pronoun
- The ENTIRE phrase is used as an adverb to modify a WHOLE clause in a sentence.
- **No grammatical connection to any word in the clause it modifies**
- Answers *when, why, or how*.
- **Their iPads having been restricted**, the students could no longer play *Clash of Clans*. (answers *why*)

Poll Question



Identify the phrase :

- a. adverb phrase*
- b. prepositional phrase*
- c. absolute phrase*
- d. noun phrase*

Answer

Option B



A magnifying glass with a black handle and a silver-colored frame. The lens is circular and contains the word "clauses" in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The magnifying glass is positioned on a plain white background.

clauses



Clause

a group of words that functions as one part of speech and that includes a **subject** and a **verb**

1 a clause functioning as an adjective

My friend **who has autism** is brilliant at quizzes.

subject verb

Proof it's an adjective:

My **autistic** friend is brilliant at quizzes.

2 a clause functioning as a noun

I cannot remember **what happened** last night.

subject verb

Proof it's a noun:

I cannot remember **a thing**.

3 a clause functioning as an adverb

He put on weight **when he stopped** running.

subject verb

Proof it's an adverb:

He put on weight **quickly**.

Poll Question

1. I don't know if my sister is at home.
2. I don't know whether my sister is at home.
3. I don't know whether my sister is at home or not.
4. I don't know whether or not my sister is at home.

Identify the underlined part

- a. phrase
- b. clause
- c. sentence

Independent Clause

- A clause that can stand by itself and still make sense.
- An independent clause could be its own sentence, but is often part of a larger structure, combined with other independent clauses and dependent clauses.
- Here are some examples:
 - Glaciers often leave behind holes in the ground.
 - Glaciers also leave behind enormous deposits of glacial “garbage”; these deposits are called *morains*.



Independent Clause

An independent clause can stand alone as a sentence.

The secret of life is honesty.

independent clause
(This is also a sentence.)

If you can fake that,

dependent clause
(This couldn't be a sentence.)

you've got it made.

independent clause
(This could be a sentence.)

Poll Question

Complete this sentence:

An independent clause has a subject and verb and

- a. can stand alone as a coherent sentence.*
- b. expresses a complete thought.*
- c. Both a and b*

Answer

Option C

Dependent clauses

Dependent clauses contain a subject and a verb, but do not express a complete thought.

**Dependent Clause =
Incomplete Thought**

A dependent clause is not a complete sentence.

The following words in **purple** are called **dependent marker words** and will be explained in the next section.

Subordinate Clause

Definition

a clause that cannot stand alone as a sentence

Examples

- 1 Used as an adverbial clause



After he consolidated power in the 1920s,
Joseph Stalin became leader of the Soviet Union.

- 2 Used as an adjective clause

Gaius Julius Caesar, **who is better known as Julius Caesar,**
was a Roman dictator.



- 3 Used as a noun clause



I can do **whatever I like.**

Poll Question

What you did last summer

subject **verb**

Identify the clause

- a. Independent clause*
- b. Dependent clause*

DEPENDENT CLAUSE

VERSUS

INDEPENDENT CLAUSE

Dependent Clause is a group of words that contain a subject and a predicate but doesn't express a complete idea.

Dependent Clause does not convey a complete thought.

Dependent Clauses contain subordinating conjunctions.

Dependent Clauses cannot be found in every sentence.

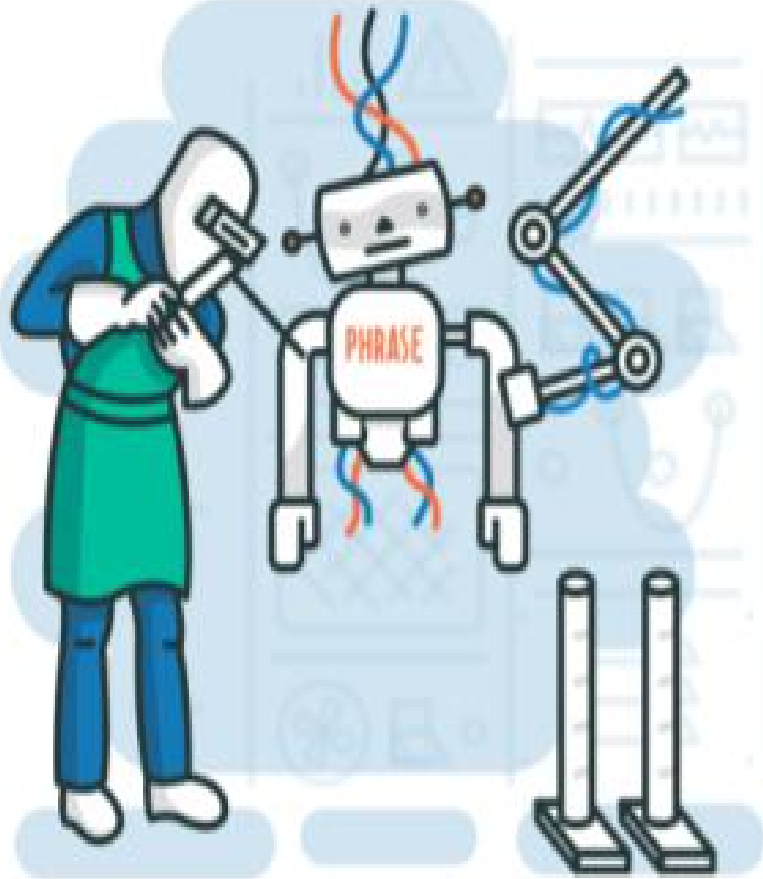
Independent Clause is a group of words that contain a subject and a predicate and expresses a complete idea.

Independent Clause conveys a complete thought.

Independent Clauses can be combined together with coordinating conjunctions.

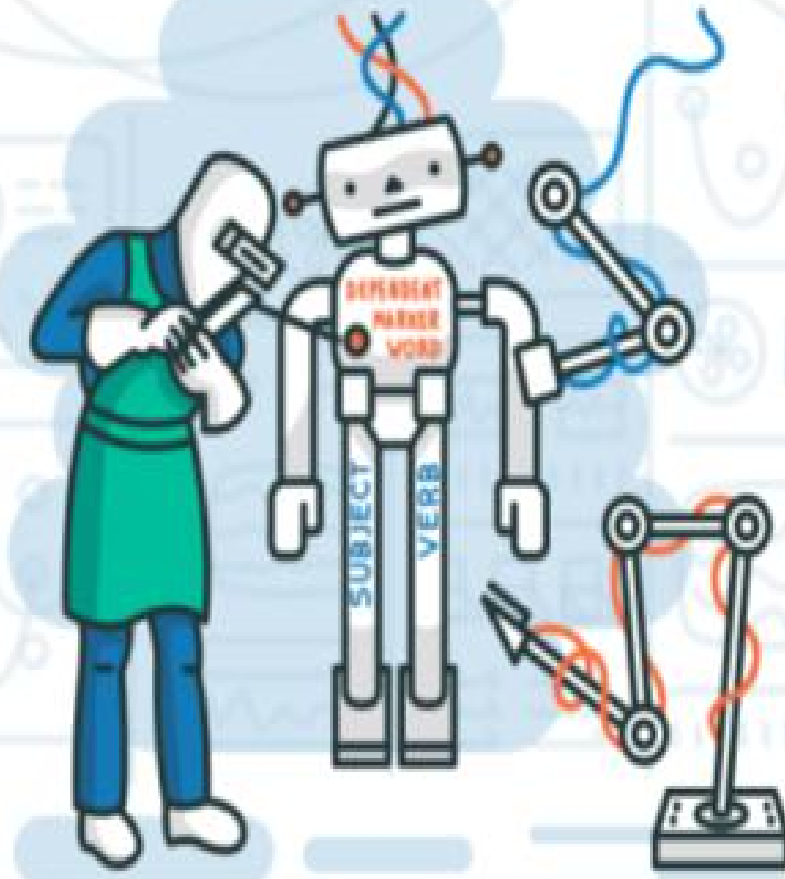
Independent Clauses can be found in every sentence.

Phrases may contain a subject or a verb, but do not contain both.



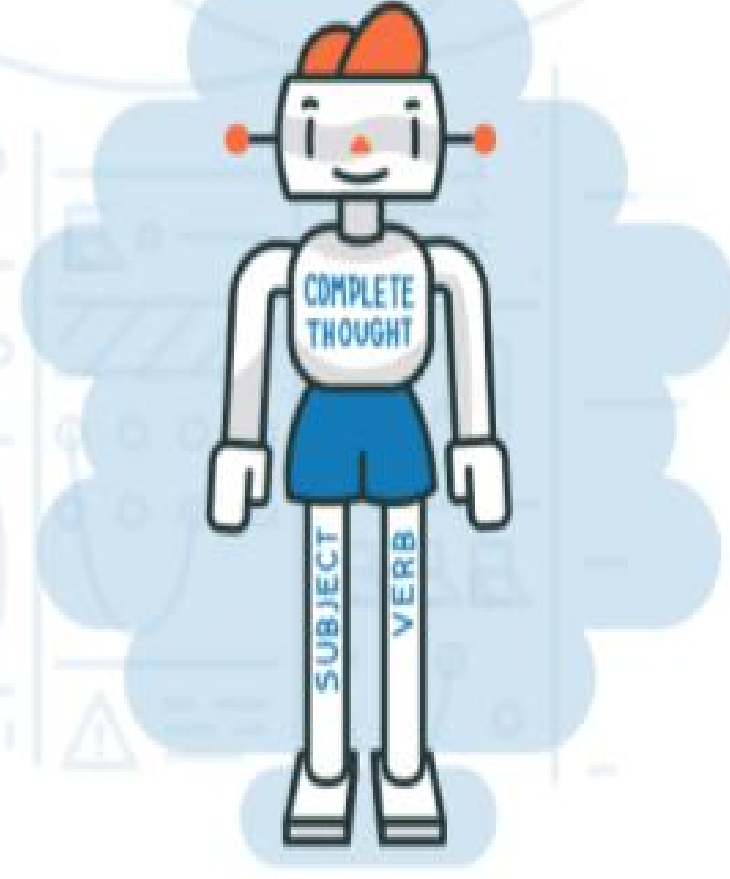
They cannot stand on their own.

A dependent clause has a subject and a verb.



It cannot stand on its own.

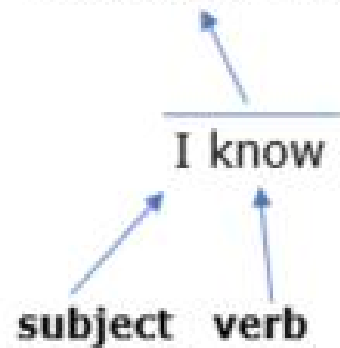
An independent clause has a subject and a verb.



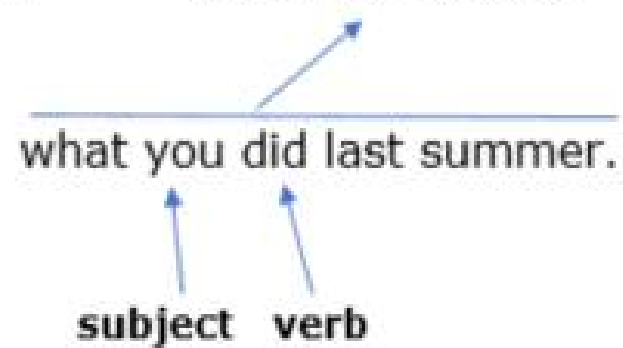
It can stand on its own.

Poll Question

independent clause



dependent clause



VOA

Is this description true?

Yes
No

Noun Clause

Definition

a clause (with a subject and verb) that functions as a noun

Example 1

subject
(of the clause)

verb
(of the clause)

Whatever you wish

is my command.

noun clause



Example 2

subject
(of the clause)

verb
(of the clause)

I know

where the treasure is.

noun clause



Poll Question

Which example shows a noun clause acting as a noun in a complete sentence?

- a. *What her brother needs is someone to tutor him in geometry.*
- b. *Her brother needs someone to tutor him in geometry.*
- c. *She said her brother needs someone to tutor him in geometry.*

Answer

Option A



Adjective Clause

Adjective clauses (or *relative clauses*) are a type of subordinate clause that act as adjectives.

Characteristics

- Modify the noun or pronoun

e.g That is the road **that leads to the market**.

The man **who gave me a bucket of roses** is my fiancé.

- Can be used as subject and object

e.g That is the policeman **who caught the thief**.

She is the girl **whom I am falling in love with**.

Adjective Clause (Three Traits)

1 relative pronoun

2 subject and verb

The tramp

who claimed to have a limp

sprinted after the bus.

3 information about the noun (the tramp)

Non-Restrictive Clause

Mark, who claimed to have a limp, sprinted after the bus.

This is just additional information.
It does not identify "Mark."

commas

Restrictive Clause

The tramp who claimed to have a limp sprinted after the bus.

This information is required to
identify "the tramp."

no commas

Poll Question

Complete this sentence:

Because a subordinate clause depends on the rest of the sentence to express a complete thought, it is called
a -----

- a. prepositional clause.*
- b. dependent clause.*
- c. verbal clause.*

Answer

Option B

Adverb Clause

An adverb clause is a subordinate clause that modifies a verb, adjective, or another adverb.

It begins with a **subordinating conjunction**.

It tells *how, when, where, why*, or *to what extend*.

Example:

If Sam calls, please tell him that I will be late.

We played in the garden **until** the sun set.

Though she was busy, Alice helped the young boy.

John went home **after** he finished his lunch.

Adverbial Clause



He came **when the moon**
(subject)
appeared.
(verb)

tells us **when** he came

Poll Question

Choose the *TRUE* statement.

- a. *A subordinate clause standing alone is an error called a sentence fragment.*
- b. *A subordinate clause always stands alone as an independent sentence.*
- c. *A subordinate clause must be placed by another subordinate clause.*

Answer

Option A

