

Class Notes	
Class: VI	Topic: Phrases & Clauses
Subject: ENGLISH	

PHRASES & CLAUSES

In any [language](#), a sentence can be divided into various parts. Phrases and clauses are one among the divisions that can be done. Phrases and clauses are both used to build sentences.

Phrase: A [phrase](#) is a group of words that act together as a single unit but don't contain the things need to form a sentence: a [subject](#) and a [predicate](#). Phrases may contain [nouns](#) and [verbs](#), but they cannot function by themselves as complete sentences. If used alone, a phrase would be a [sentence fragment](#) and not a sentence.

For example, the phrase “*shiny gold watches*” is clearly not a complete sentence as it doesn't have a predicate.

Examples of phrases in a sentence

- **Running laps** around the jogging track is really good exercise.
- **The tired, old cat** can't catch mice anymore.
- **Thinking quickly**, we put out the fire with a hose.
- **His last Christmas gift** to her was a partridge in a pear tree.
- She quizzically rubbed her chin, **thinking about** how best to answer the question.

Types of phrases:

- **Noun Phrase:** This is a phrase that acts as a noun in a sentence. A noun or a pronoun and its modifiers make up a noun phrase. Remember a noun phrase answers the question 'what'.
For example: The man takes **a bus every day to work**.
Arif has **a very beautiful bag with him**.
- **Adjective Phrase:** An adjective phrase is a phrase that acts as an adjective by describing a noun.

For example: She was **taller than her classmates.**

The horse's large, menacing eyes said a fight was imminent.

- **Verb Phrase:** This phrase will contain a main verb and one or more helping verb. These two will have a link that connects them together. This phrase will define the various times of the action in a sentence. For example: The car **is moving** in a circle.

Will he **be eating** the entire buffet?

- **Adverb Phrase:** Two or more words that perform the role of an adverb, when put together, can be identified as an adverbial phrase. Like an adverb, an adverbial phrase will also answer questions such as 'when', 'where', 'why', 'how' and 'how often'.

For example: There is a new supermarket **right in front of my house.**

Anand waited **silently and patiently.**

- **Prepositional Phrase:** This group of words begins with a preposition. The preposition precedes a noun or a pronoun or something which acts as a noun or a pronoun.

For example: She was lost **at sea.**

I am writing this essay **for the entire class.**

NOTE: The entire prepositional phrase acts as an adverb or an adjective most of the times.

Examples:

Best friend (**this phrase acts as a noun**)

Needing help (**this phrase acts as an adjective**)

With the blue shirt (**this phrase acts as an adjective**)

For twenty days (**this phrase acts as an adverb**)

Clauses: A clause is also a part of a sentence that consists of a subject and a verb, unlike phrases. They can be divided into two main types depending on how they behave in a sentence. The different types of clauses are:

- Main Clause or Independent Clause
- Subordinate Clause or Dependent Clause

- An **independent clause** is a simple sentence. It can stand on its own.

Examples:

She is hungry.

I am feeling well today.

❖ If a sentence contains COORDINATING CONJUNCTION with two finite verbs, it will have two independent clauses.

- A **dependent clause** cannot stand on its own. It needs an independent clause to complete a sentence. Dependent clauses often begin with words such as *although, since, if, when, because*, etc.

SUBORDINATING CONJUNCTIONS.

Examples:

Although she is hungry ...

Whoever is hungry ...

Because I am feeling well ...

Dependent

Independent

Although she is hungry,

she will give him some of her food.

Whatever they decide,

I will agree to.

Difference between Phrases and Clauses

Take a look at the table given below to find out how phrases and clauses differ from each other.

Phrases	Clauses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A phrase does not have a subject and predicate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A clause has a subject and a predicate
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A phrase is not complete, cannot make sense or convey meaning if it stands on its own. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In some cases, a clause can look complete, convey meaning and make sense when separated from the sentence.

- There are five types of phrases namely noun phrase, verb phrase, adverb phrase, adjective phrase and prepositional phrase.

- There are two types of clauses namely independent clause and dependent clause.

- Example: There is an unidentified vehicle **in front of our house.**

- Example: I am sick, so I am going to see the doctor.

Ex A. Identify the underlined part as a phrase or clause in the following sentences.

1. I completed my project, but I was not satisfied with it.
2. Jacob knew about it though he kept asking everyone about it.
3. I was waiting at the park.
4. They all sang extremely well.
5. The girls in the black dresses are the ones who won the competition last year.
6. In the meantime, I will help you with your domestic chores.
7. Santana and Brittany are good dancers.
8. When we reach home, we will call you.
9. We were planning our summer vacation.
10. She finally agreed to come with us to the slumber party.

Ex B. Identify the independent and dependent clauses in the following sentences.

1. Meg likes to go out for Japanese food, but Ryan prefers to dine at Thai restaurants.
2. I will go to the party with you if you promise we'll be home by 11:00 p.m.
3. The distance between the two towers is about 500 yards.
4. Melanie will sign the proposal that you prepared if you send it to her this week.
5. Whenever a new superhero movie comes out, David is among the first to see it on opening weekend.
6. I will be so upset if she decides to visit me.
7. While I enjoy eating any type of food, my friend prefers only vegetarian.
8. Please let me know when you arrive.

9. The car that has been stolen was parked in front of his house.

10. I'll be leaving my job soon as I'm close to retirement.

Ex C. Read the passage and identify the underlined part as a phrase or a clause.

After an intense bout of rains last week, on November 29, things had calmed down for the most part in Chennai. However, that was quite literally the lull before the storm. And as Cyclone Michaung crawls closer to the Tamil Nadu coast, its claws dig deeper and deeper into the state's capital city.

While Michaung is on track to make landfall between Andhra Pradesh's Nellore and Machilipatnam as a 'Severe Cyclonic Storm' on December 5, it won't do so before a stormy shoulder brush against the Tamil Nadu coastline.

According to the Regional Specialised Meteorological Centre's (RSMC) update today, Michaung will continue to strengthen and skirt northwards alongside Andhra Pradesh's coast, before making landfall between Nellore and Machilipatnam. This will occur close to Bapatla during forenoon of Tuesday (December 5) and strike with a maximum sustained wind speed of 90-110 kmph.

Ex D. Underline the independent clause in black and dependent clause in blue.

Edgar Allan Poe was an American writer, poet, author, editor, and literary critic who is best known for his poetry and short stories, particularly his tales of mystery and the macabre. He is widely regarded as a central figure of Romanticism and Gothic fiction in the United States, and of American literature. Poe was one of the country's earliest practitioners of the short story, and is considered the inventor of the detective fiction genre, as well as a significant contributor to the emerging genre of science fiction. He is the first well-known American writer who earned a living through writing alone, resulting in a financially difficult life and career.