Name & Surname: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Phrases and Clauses in Action

Build stronger, clearer sentences.

About 45 minutes Level ★★★☆☆



Phrases vs. Clauses

All sentences are built from **phrases** and **clauses** that work as units.

- A **phrase** is a group of words with no subject and verb together. It cannot stand alone. It adds detail as a noun, adjective, or adverb, such as in the morning to tell when.
- A **clause** always has a subject and a verb. An independent clause expresses a complete thought and can stand alone: We finished early.
- A dependent clause also has a subject and a verb but cannot stand alone. It starts with a word like because, when, although, or who and must join an independent clause: Because it was late, we finished early.
- In specific sentences, phrases add detail and clauses carry the main or extra ideas. Place them carefully so the **meaning** stays clear.



Key words

phrase: a group of words without a subject and verb together

clause: a group of words with a subject and a verb

subject: who or what the clause is about

verb: the action or state in the clause

independent: complete alone as a sentence

dependent: needs another clause to be complete

Task A

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Pick one box from each column to build three complete sentences. Then write them out and label the phrase and the clause.

Because it was late,	we studied	in the library
		for the quiz
After lunch,	the class listened	your own idea

Write three sentences

Because it was late, we studied in the library.

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Bingo Word Review

Play bingo to review key grammar terms.

Task B

Listen for each term. Cover it on your board. Get three in a row to win the round.

BINGO 1		
fragment	complete	 verb
independent	dependent	phrase
 sentence	clause	conjunction

BINGO 2		
 sentence	dependent	clause
modifier	 verb	conjunction
 subject	complete	fragment

BINGO 3		
clause	fragment	independent
 subject	phrase	modifier
 sentence	 preposition	 verb

BINGO 4		
independent	dependent	modifier
fragment	conjunction	 sentence
clause	complete	phrase

Caller: phrase · clause · subject · verb · independent · dependent · sentence · preposition · modifier · complete · fragment · conjunction

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Class Survey Results

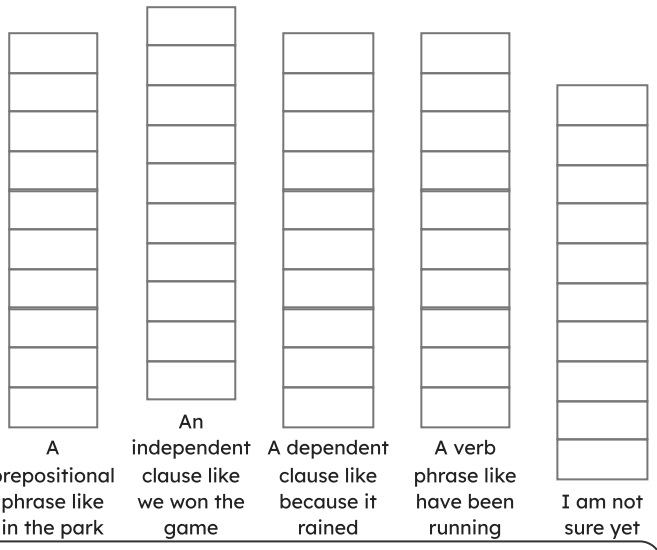
Survey the class about spotting phrases and clauses.

Task C

Ask 10 classmates the question below, tally their answers, then color squares to make a bar chart.

Which part is easiest for you to spot in a sentence?

Answer	Tally	Total
A prepositional phrase like in the park		
An independent clause like we won the game		
A dependent clause like because it rained		
A verb phrase like have been running		
I am not sure yet		



What does your chart show?

.....

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Captions and Claims

Judge captions and sort fact from opinion.

⚖ Task D /6

Tick fact or opinion for each statement. Then explain how you can tell for one of them.

Statement	Fact	Opinion
A **clause** contains both a subject and a verb.		
A **phrase** by itself cannot stand alone as a complete sentence.		
Because it was late is a dependent **clause** that needs an independent clause.		
Writing with different kinds of sentences is more interesting to read.		
Learning about phrases is the best part of English class.		

How can you tell that one of them is an opinion?

.....

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Sort and Connect

Sort word groups and link ideas in a chain.

Task E

Example done for you

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Color each box by group. Then use two phrases and two clauses in your own sentences.

● **Phrase**: colour it blue or draw ● ▲ **Clause**: colour it orange or draw ▲

in the morning	after the game	running down the hall	to finish early
she studies hard	we won the game	because it rained	when she has a test

Task F

Start from clause. Add linked words, explaining each link, to show what you learned.

clause → because... _____ → because... _____ → because... _____

→ because... _____

How did I do?

Circle a face for each line.

I can explain what a phrase and a clause do in a sentence.

I can spot independent and dependent clauses in real sentences.

I can place phrases and clauses correctly when I write.

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Answer sheet: Phrases and Clauses in Action

Task A

Answers will vary, e.g. Because it was late, we studied in the library. After lunch, the class listened for the quiz.

Task B

A game: no written answers.

Task C

Answers will vary.

Task D

1. Fact
2. Fact
3. Fact
4. Opinion
5. Opinion

Task E

Phrase (blue ●): in the morning, after the game, running down the hall, to finish early

Clause (orange ▲): she studies hard, we won the game, because it rained, when she has a test

Task F

Answers will vary, e.g. clause -> subject (every clause must have one) -> verb (the action joined to the subject) -> sentence (an independent clause can be this alone) -> phrase (a group without subject and verb together)

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