

PHRASES AND CLAUSES

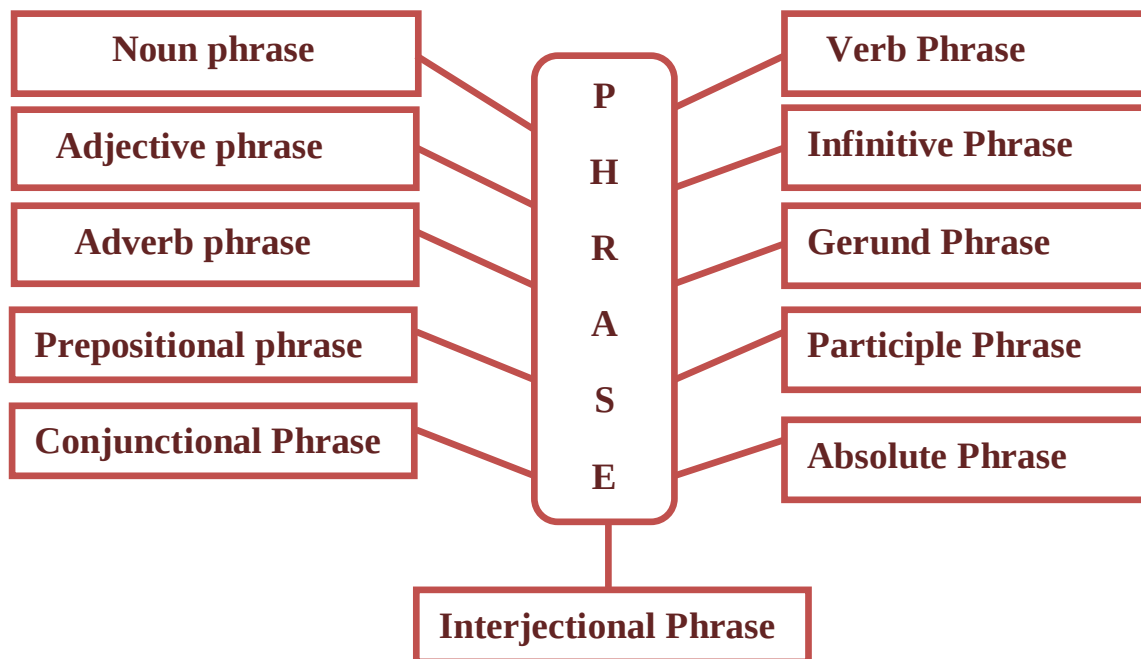
PHRASE

A phrase is a group of words which has no finite verb in it and acts to complete the sentence for making it meaningful.

“A phrase is a small group of words that form a meaningful unit within a clause.”-Oxford Dictionary

“In linguistic analysis, a phrase is a group of words (or possibly a single word) that functions as a constituent in the syntax of a sentence, a single unit within a grammatical hierarchy.”- Osborne, Timothy, Michael Putnam, and Thomas Gross (2011)

Kinds of Phrases



🌿 Noun Phrase:

A **noun phrase** is usually assembled centering a single noun and works as a subject, an object or a complement in the sentence.

- I like **to swing the bat** hard when I am at the crease. (An object)
- **Reading novels** is a good habit. (A subject)

🌿 Adjective Phrase:

An **adjective phrase** is a group of words headed by an adjective that modifies a noun.

- Alex is a **well-behaved** man.
- He is a man **of friendly nature**.

🌿 Adverb Phrase:

An **adverbial phrase** modifies the verb or the adjective and works as an adverb in the sentence.

- The horse runs **at a good speed**.
- I was **in a hurry then**.

🌿 Prepositional Phrase:

A **prepositional phrase** always begins with a preposition and connects nouns.

- He sacrificed his life **for the sake** of his country.
- **In the end**, we all have to die.

🌿 Conjunctive Phrase:

A **conjunctive phrase** works as a conjunction in the sentence.

- **As soon as** you got in, he went out.
- We have to work hard **so that** we can win the next match.

🌿 Interjectional Phrase:

Interjections that have more than one word are called the **interjectional phrases**.

- **What a pity!** He is dead.
- **What a pleasure!** I won the first prize.

🌿 Verb Phrase:

A **verb phrase** is a combination of main verb and its auxiliaries (helping verbs) in a sentence.

- He **is eating** an apple.
- She **has finished** her work.

🌿 Infinitive Phrase:

An infinitive phrase consist of an infinitive (to + simple form of verb) and modifiers or other words associated to the infinitive. An infinitive phrase always functions as an adjective, adverb or a noun in a sentence.

He likes **to read** books. (As noun/object)

To earn money is a desire of everyone. (As noun/subject)

🌿 Gerund Phrase:

A gerund phrase consists of a gerund (verb + ing) and modifiers or other words associated with the gerund. A gerund phrase acts as a noun in a sentence.

She started **thinking about the problem**. (As noun/object)

Sleeping late in night is not a good habit. (As noun/subject)

🌿 Participle Phrase:

A participle phrase consists of a present participle (verb + ing), a past participle (verb ending in -ed or other form in case of irregular verbs) and modifiers or other associate words. A participle phrase is separated by commas. It always acts as an adjective in a sentence.

The kids, **making a noise**, need food. (modifies kids)

I received a letter, **mentioning about my exam**. (modifies letter)

🌿 Absolute Phrase:

Absolute phrase (also called nominative phrase) is a group of words including a noun or pronoun and a participle as well as any associated modifiers. Absolute phrase modifies (give information about) the entire sentence. It resembles a clause but it lack a true finite verb. It is separated by a comma or pairs of commas from the rest sentence.

He looks sad, **his face expressing worry**.

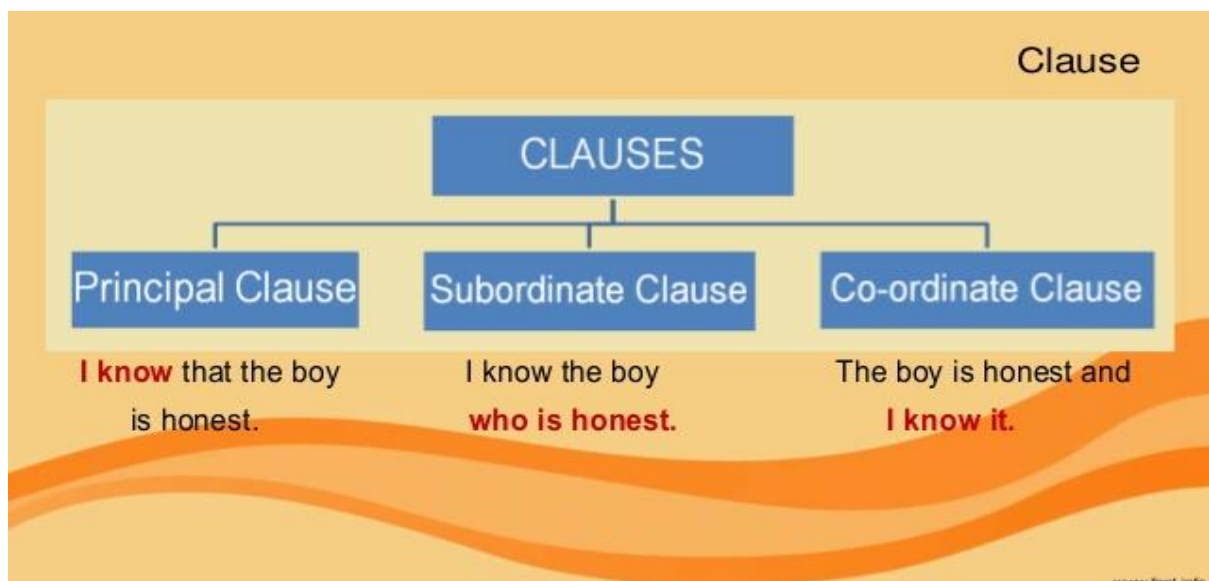
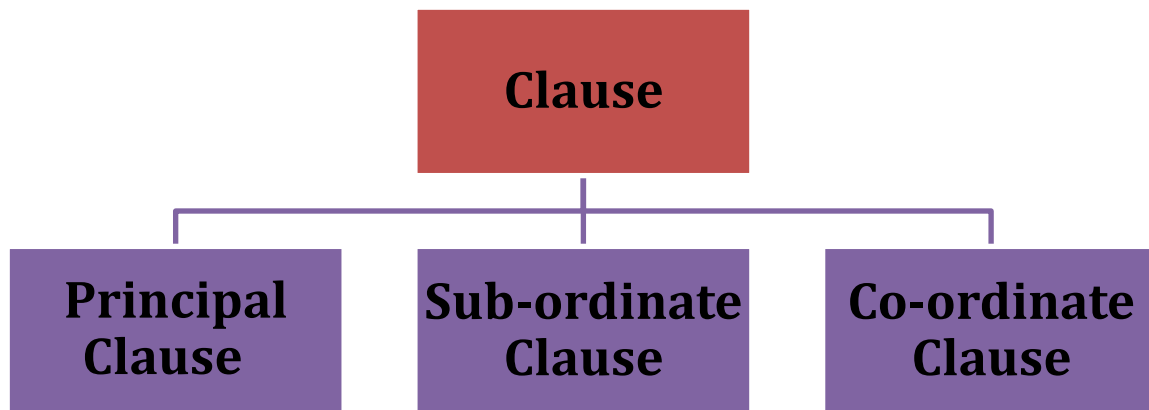
She was waiting for her friend, **her eyes on the clock**.

CLAUSE

Clauses are the building blocks of the English language. Any sentence that you write which has a subject (the doer of the action) and a verb (an action word) is called a clause. Whereas a phrase is a group of words which makes sense but not complete sense, a clause makes complete sense.

For example, "a clear blue sky" (is a phrase) and "A clear blue sky welcomed me in Leh" (is a clause-The subject is 'A clear blue sky' and the verb is 'welcomed').

Kinds of Clause:



➤ Principal Clause:

This Clause is the main part of sentence. As it contains the subject as well as the finite verb and the object, it can make complete sense itself. It does not have to depend upon any other Clause.

Examples:

They rested when evening came.

We know that he is honest.

➤ Subordinate Clause:

A Subordinate Clause depends on a Main Clause for its complete meaning.

Examples:

Though I am poor, I am happy.

As she was ill, she could not go to school.

➤ Coordinate Clause:

This Clause forms part of a sentence, but in rank, it is equal to the Principal Clause. However, alone it cannot form a sentence. It is connected to a principal clause by a Coordinating conjunction, through like the Principal Clause; in itself it forms a complete sense.

Examples:

He gets up early in the morning **and goes out for a walk.**

He is poor **but he is honest.**

TYPES OF SUB-ORDINATE CLAUSE

There are three kinds of subordinate clause:

- Noun clause
- Adjective Clause
- Adverb Clause

NOUN CLAUSE

A noun clause is a group of words which contains a subject and a predicate of its own, and does the work of a noun.

Functions of Noun Clause:

These are the main functions of a noun clause with examples:

A noun clause can function within a sentence as a:

Subject: What John learned helped him a lot.

Object: I can say that grammar is really important.

Complement: The issue is that he can't find new ideas.

Preposition Complement: I'm not interested in what he wrote.

Apposition: Your prediction, that he will travel soon, wasn't true.

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



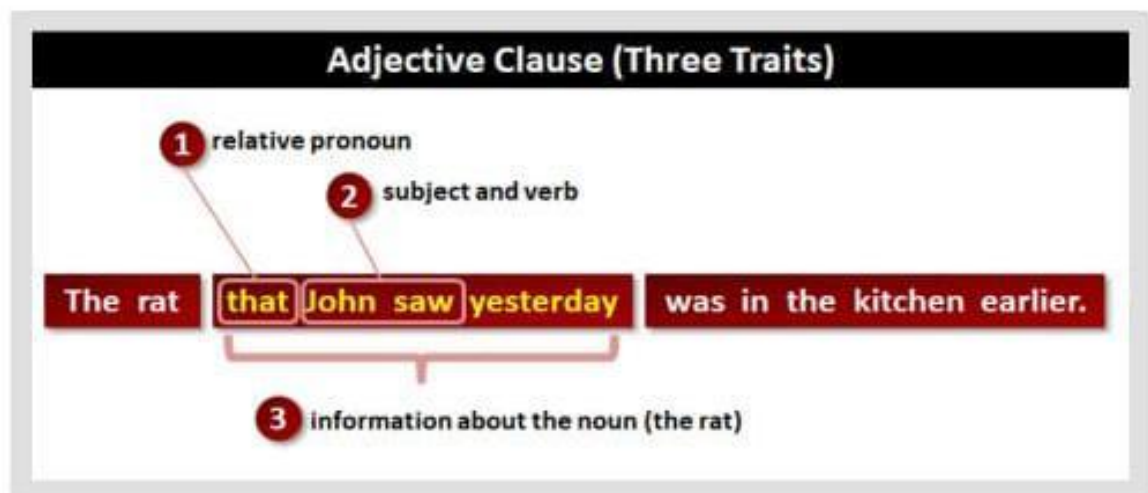
ADJECTIVE CLAUSE

An adjective clause is a multiword adjective that includes a subject and a verb. When we think of an adjective, we usually think about a single word used before a noun to modify its meanings (e.g., tall building, smelly cat, argumentative assistant). However, an adjective can also come in the form of an adjective clause. An adjective clause usually comes after the noun it modifies and is made up of several words, which, like all clauses, will include a subject and a verb.

Examples of Adjective Clauses:

The carpets **that you bought last year** have rotted.

I don't remember a time **when words were not dangerous**.



ADVERB CLAUSE

An adverbial clause is a group of words that plays the role of an adverb. (Like all clauses, an adverbial clause contains a subject and a verb.)

Examples:

Before you leave, please turn off the lights.

The show will start **after the sun goes down**.

Types of Adverb Clauses

• Adverb Clauses of Time:

Adverb clauses of time tell us about when something happens.

We can use conjunctions like ‘*when*’, ‘*whenever*’, ‘*before*’, ‘*after*’, ‘*as*’, ‘*while*’, ‘*until*’, ‘*as soon as*’, and ‘*since*’:

- *I stopped running when I saw my friend.*
- *Annie gets excited whenever she sees a dog.*
- *I’ll do my homework before I go back to school.*
- *Harry went home after the movie ended.*
- *I watched my mother as she prepared dinner.*
- *He washed the dishes while his friend vacuumed the floor.*
- *I will come over as soon as I finish eating.*
- *Gemma hasn’t stopped working since she arrived.*

• Adverbial Clauses of Place:

Adverb clauses of place tell us about where something happens.

We can use the conjunctions ‘*where*’, ‘*wherever*’, and ‘*everywhere*’:

- *Wherever I go, I always see a McDonald’s restaurant.*
- *I’m not sure where she lives.*
- *We met kind people everywhere we went.*
- *Where there is a will, there is a way.*
- *He followed her wherever she went.*
- *That’s the town where I was born.*

• Adverbial Clauses of Condition:

Adverbial clauses of condition tell us about the circumstances under which something happens. These clauses often begin with ‘*if*’, ‘*unless*’, or ‘*provided that*’:

- *I only watch TV if my favourite show is on.*
- *He won’t go to university unless he studies very hard.*

• Adverbial Clauses of Manner:

Adverbial clauses of manner show us how something happens. They usually begin with the conjunctions ‘*like*’, ‘*as though*’ or ‘*as if*’:

- *She looked as though she was in pain.*
- *Ryan walked past as if he hadn’t seen us.*



- **Adverbial Clauses of Cause/Reason:**

Clauses of cause are used to show why something happens. These clauses begin with the conjunctions **‘because’**, **‘since’**, and **‘as’**:

- I listen to classical music because it sounds beautiful.
- Since you're so kind to me, I will help you.

- **Adverbial Clauses of Effect:**

Clauses of effect tell us about consequences. They often begin with **‘so...that’**, and **‘such...that’**.

- I was so tired that I couldn't stay awake.
- The meal was so delicious that we made it again the next day.

- **Adverbial Clauses of Comparison:**

Clauses of comparison are used to **compare** things or ideas. They often begin with the conjunctions **‘than’** or **‘as...as’**:

- My brother is older than he looks.
- She is as beautiful as she is smart.

- **Adverbial Clauses of Concession/Contrast:**

Adverbial clause of concession describes contrasting statements or circumstances despite which something happens.

They usually begin with **‘although’**, **‘though’**, **‘even if’**, **‘even though’**, **‘while’** or **‘whereas’**:

- Although it rained, they enjoyed their walk.
- I enjoyed the meal, though it was expensive.

- **Adverbial Clauses of Purpose**

Adverbial clauses of purpose show why something is happening (the intended result).

We can use 'so that', 'lest' and 'in order that':

- *He took off his shoes so that he would not ruin the carpet.*
- *The doctors did extensive research in order that they can find the cure for that disease.*

Adverbial Clause

Definition

a group of words that functions as an adverb and that contains a subject and a verb

Example

subject verb

When **the sun** **rises**, we will escape.

adverbial clause

