

Clause

The most fundamental distinction between a clause and a phrase is:

- **A Clause is a group of words that forms part of a sentence and contains a Subject and a Predicate (a verb) .**
- **A Phrase is a group of words that forms part of a sentence but does not contain a Subject and a Predicate . It functions as a single part of speech.**

Let's find out how are they different from each other

- **Presence of Subject-Verb: This is the key difference. A clause has a subject and a verb where as a phrase does not .**

- Example

"How to do it" a Phrase because there is no subject, even though it has the verb "do."

In contrast, "Which is made of gold" is a Clause because it has a subject ("which") and a verb ("is made") .

A clause is further divided into two types

- 1. Independent/Principal Clause**
- 2. Dependent/ subordinate clause**

Types of Subordinate Clauses

Subordinate (dependent) clauses can be categorized into three main types based on the function they perform in a sentence .

1. The Noun Clause

A noun clause does the work of a noun in a complex sentence . It can function as a subject, object, complement or object of a preposition .

- Example 1 (as Subject): "That you should say so" surprises me. (The clause is the subject of the verb "surprises") .
- Example 2 (as Object): He says "that he won't go." (The clause is the object of the verb "says") .

- Example 3 (as Object of Preposition): Pay careful attention to "what I am going to say." (The clause is the object of the preposition "to") .
- Example 4 (in Apposition/ Compliment): Your statement "that you found the money in the street" will not be believed. (The clause is in apposition to the noun "statement") .

Trick

If you can replace the group of words with a single pronoun like it, this, that, or something, it is a Noun Clause.

- That he is honest is known → It is known.  Noun Clause
- I know what he did → I know that.  Noun Clause

2. The Adjective Clause

An adjective clause, also known as a relative clause, does the work of an adjective, qualifying a noun or pronoun in the main clause. It is usually introduced by relative pronouns like who, which, that, whom, whose .

- Example 1: I spoke to the teacher "who taught us English" .
- Example 2: I found the book "which belonged to me" .
- Example 3: That is the man "whom we met yesterday" .
- Example 4: I saw the lady "whose bag was left on the seat" .

3. The Adverb Clause

An adverb clause does the work of an adverb, modifying a verb, adjective, or another adverb in the main clause . It is introduced by subordinating conjunctions like when, where, because, if, though, so that, etc.

- Example 1 (Time): I will see you again "when the sun rises." (Modifies the verb "will see") .
- Example 2 (Place): "Where there is a will," there is a way. (Modifies the verb "is") .
- Example 3 (Cause/Reason): He could not do anything "since he was ill." (Modifies the verb "could do") .
- Example 4 (Condition): "If you help me," I shall be happy. (Modifies the verb "shall be") .

ITS TIME TO PRACTICE WHAT WE LEARNT TILL NOW

I. IDENTIFY the bold part; WHETHER IT IS A PHRASE OR A CLAUSE

1. She lives **in a small village**.
2. **When the rain stopped**, we went out.
3. I enjoy reading books **with interesting plots**.
4. **That he is innocent** is obvious.
5. **The man standing near the gate** is my uncle.
6. **If you work hard**, you will succeed.
7. He spoke **in a very rude manner**.
8. I know **where he lives**.
9. The girl **with the blue ribbon** won the prize.
10. **As soon as the bell rang**, the students ran out.
11. He is a man **of great wisdom**.
12. **That she forgot her bag** was unfortunate.
13. We sat **under a large banyan tree**.
14. **Although he was tired**, he continued working.
15. I have a friend **who lives in London**.
16. He acted **with great courage**.
17. **Because he helped me**, I finished early.
18. The house **across the street** is on fire.
19. **Whatever you decide** is acceptable to me.
20. She walked **as if she were** in a dream.

II. Identify the underlined subordinate clause as Noun Clause, Adjective Clause, or Adverb Clause.

1. I think **that he will come today**.

2. The book **which you gave me** is interesting.
3. **When the sun sets**, we will leave.
4. Pay attention to **what your teacher says**.
5. The man **who robbed the bank** was arrested.
6. **Because she was ill**, she stayed home.
7. His belief **that all men are equal** is noble.
8. **Wherever you go**, I will follow.
9. I remember the day **when we first met**.
10. **That you lied** hurts me deeply.
11. He ran fast **so that he might catch the train**.
12. The reason **why he left** is unknown.
13. **If you apologize**, I will forgive you.
14. She asked **if I was feeling well**.
15. The house **whose windows are broken** is haunted.
16. **Though he is rich**, he is not happy.
17. My opinion is **that you are wrong**.
18. He returned to the place **where he was born**.
19. **Whether he will arrive** is uncertain.
20. We eat **so that we may live**.

ANSWER KEY – PART I

- 1 in a small village Phrase
- 2 When the rain stopped Clause
- 3 books with interesting plots Phrase
- 4 That he is innocent Clause
- 5 standing near the gate Phrase
- 6 If you work hard Clause
- 7 in a very rude manner Phrase
- 8 where he lives Clause
- 9 with the blue ribbon Phrase
- 10 As soon as the bell rang Clause
- 11 of great wisdom Phrase
- 12 That she forgot her bag Clause
- 13 under a large banyan tree Phrase
- 14 Although he was tired Clause
- 15 who lives in London Clause
- 16 with great courage Phrase
- 17 Because he helped me Clause
- 18 across the street Phrase
- 19 Whatever you decide Clause
- 20 as if she were in a dream Clause

Part-II

- 1 that he will come today Noun Clause

- 2 which you gave me Adjective Clause
- 3 When the sun sets Adverb Clause
- 4 what your teacher says Noun Clause
- 5 who robbed the bank Adjective Clause
- 6 Because she was ill Adverb Clause
- 7 that all men are equal Noun Clause
- 8 Wherever you go Adverb Clause
- 9 when we first met Adjective Clause
- 10 That you lied Noun Clause
- 11 so that he might catch the train Adverb Clause
- 12 why he left Adjective Clause
- 13 If you apologize Adverb Clause
- 14 if I was feeling well Noun Clause
- 15 whose windows are broken Adjective Clause
- 16 Though he is rich Adverb Clause
- 17 that you are wrong Noun Clause
- 18 where he was born Adjective Clause
- 19 Whether he will arrive Noun Clause
- 20 so that we may live Adverb Clause