

Clauses, Phrases, and Sentences

Phrase A phrase is a group of related words that does not have a subject doing the action of a verb. There are several different types of phrases:

- Noun phrase: A phrase built around a single noun:
 - A vase of roses stood on the table.
 - She was reading a book about the problems of women.
- Verb phrase: A phrase that is the verbal part of a clause:
 - She had been living in London.
 - I will be going to college next year.
- Adjective phrase: A phrase built around an adjective:
 - He had a very interesting life.
 - A lot of the kids really enjoy football.
- Adverbial phrase: A phrase built round an adverb by adding words before and/or after it:
 - The economy recovered very slowly.
 - They wanted to leave the country as fast as possible.
- Prepositional phrase: A phrase where a preposition comes at the beginning:
 - She got a prize for the best story.
 - The dog was hiding under the kitchen table.

Clause A clause is a collection of words with a subject that is doing the action of a verb.

- An independent clause can stand by itself and be a complete sentence:
 - I like young people.
 - The lunch was too big for me.
- A dependent clause has a subject doing the action of a verb, but it can't make a complete sentence by itself. It begins with a conjunction and need another clause to complete its meaning. Dependent clauses often begin with words such as *before, after, while, during, when, because, or if*:
 - because she smiled at him
 - when everybody left the room
 - after he went to school

Sentence Every sentence must have at least one independent clause. A sentence begins with a capital letter and ends with a period ("."):

- A simple sentence has one independent clause:
 - He likes playing games all afternoon and evening.
- A compound sentence has two or more independent clauses joined by a conjunction such as "and" or "but", or joined by a semicolon (";"):
 - He likes playing games all afternoon and evening, but his mother wants him to study.
 - He likes eating at McDonald's; his favorites foods are French fries and chicken.