

Name: _____ Date: _____

Phrases and Clauses

Objective: By completing this worksheet, you will be able to improve your writing clarity by using different types of phrases and clauses in your research paper.

Types of Phrases

A **phrase** is a group of words that acts as a single part of speech.

Phrases can be classified by part of speech:

- **noun phrase:** a group of words that includes the noun and all its modifiers.
The young, agile boy sprained his ankle performing a backflip.
- **verb phrase:** a group of words that includes a verb and all its modifiers.
My pet Husky has been howling all night.
- **adjectival phrase:** a group of words that describes a noun or pronoun; answers the questions which one, what kind, how many, how much, and whose.
The omelet with the mushrooms and olives is mine.
- **adverbial phrase:** a group of words that describes a verb, adjective, or adverb; answers the questions where, when, why, how, and to what extent.
My best friend lives at the end of Bedford Lane.

Phrases can be classified by how they begin:

- **prepositional phrase:** begins with a preposition and ends with the object of the preposition; can function as both an adjective and an adverb.

The lady in the tie dye jacket is my mother. **(adjectival)**

My cat chased the iguana up the tree. **(adverbial)**

- **infinitive phrase:** begins with the word *to* and a verb; can function as a noun, adjective, or adverb.

Danisha wants to graduate college with a high GPA. **(noun)**

The only way to become better at singing is practice. **(adjectival)**

I am training to compete in a triathlon. **(adverbial)**

- **participial phrase:** begins with a past or present participle; functions as an adjective.

Edward spotted his pet bulldog lying in the shade.

Framed by the moonlight, my father's grey locks looked like a silver waterfall.

Types of Clauses

A **clause** is a group of words containing a subject and a verb that forms a part of a sentence.

Independent Clauses:

- **has a subject and a verb and forms a complete sentence or makes sense by itself.**

Streton and Ryan are going biking along the bayou this afternoon.

Sylvester forgot his helmet at home.

Dependent Clauses:

- **has a subject and a verb but does not make sense by itself or form a complete sentence; may begin with a subordinating conjunction such as *when, until, although, while, that, since, and before*.**

Although he ran.

When Dawn is finished reading her book.

Exercise 1.

Read each group of words and decide if it is a **phrase (P)**, **independent clause (IC)**, or **dependent clause (DC)**.

- _____ 1. Hiking to the tallest waterfall in the Guyana.
- _____ 2. As we climbed to the summit of the mountain.
- _____ 3. He got home early.
- _____ 4. To speak multiple languages.
- _____ 5. Playing the piano.
- _____ 6. Because Danielle forgot to bring the refreshments.
- _____ 7. Only one person is needed to row the boat.
- _____ 8. Since the movie was very funny.
- _____ 9. Going to the beach is my favorite way to relax.
- _____ 10. After we visit our grandparents.

Sentence Combination

Well-written papers include a variety of well-structure sentences. To add variety to your sentences, you can **combine sentences using phrases and clauses**.

Combining Independent Clauses:

- **Two or more independent clauses can be combined or joined in two simple ways: by using a **semicolon (;)** or with a **comma (,)** and a **coordinating conjunction** such as **and, but, or, nor, so, and for**.**

Leave for school now.
You will be late.



Leave for school now, **or** you will be late.

Jason is an avid reader.
He can lead book club.



Jason is an avid reader, **so** he can lead book club.

Combining Phrases and Dependent Clauses:

- Stand-alone phrases and clauses do not form complete thoughts and so when you fix these fragments, be sure to add the missing part of the sentence.

As the final buzzer sounded **(fragment)**

Michael made the three-pointer as the final buzzer sounded.

To win the game **(fragment)**

Our team needed five points to win the game.

- To being a sentence with a phrase or dependent clause, you will need to add a comma after the fragment before adding the independent clause.

While she is on vacation **(fragment)**

Her mother will water her plants. **(independent clause)**

While she is on vacation, her mother will water her plants.

- Phrases and dependent clauses that are in the middle or at the end will not need a comma before them.

that broke the record **(fragment)**

Molten Pegasus is the horse. **(independent clause)**

Molten Pegasus is the horse that broke the record.

where it all began **(fragment)**

The original diner is still standing. **(independent clause)**

The original diner where it all began is still standing.

Exercise 2.

For each group of phrases and clauses below, combine them correctly to form a complete sentence. Remember to use the appropriate conjunction and proper punctuation when combining the word groups.

1. If you want to learn to write poetry

You must read a lot of poems

2. The St. Joseph's Learning Academy uniform is blue and mint green

That Brenton wears

3. Before you lock your car

Be sure to hide valuables

Be sure to have your keys

4. My cousin Becca taught me

I learned how to bake sugar cookies

I learned how to mold fondant

During my last summer visit