

Phrases, Clauses & Sentences

Phrase - A group of words that do not make sense alone. No verb.

Noun Phrase



Noun phrases contain a noun as its head word.

e.g. a tree, some sweets, those elephant

Expanded noun phrase

Noun phrases can be expanded by using adjectives to describe the noun.

e.g. a tree an ancient tree.

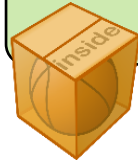
a baby a cute baby with red cheeks



Prepositional Phrase

Prepositional phrases contain a preposition. (Remember - prepositions tell you where something is in relation to something else).

They are followed by a noun, pronoun or noun phrase.



in the box after dinner inside the car

Adverbial Phrase

Adverbial phrases act like an adverb and modify verbs. They tell us **how, why, when, how often** something happens.

e.g. with a sigh of relief... (How?)
on the dining table (Where?)
for several weeks (How often?)



Fronted adverbial – an adverbial at the beginning of a sentence. These are always followed by a comma.

e.g. After a while,
With fear in his eyes,



Subordinate clause



Definition – A subordinate clause does not make sense alone. It relies on the main clause in order to make sense.

After eating dinner, David sat down to rest.
We put our coats on because it was cold outside.

Spotting them – They are often introduced by subordinating conjunctions such as **which, because, when, if, unless, that, although, where, while, until.**

Clause - A group of words that do not make sense alone. No verb.

Main Clause

Definition – A main clause contains a verb and makes sense alone.

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It was sunny and the sun was shining.

Miss Stanley, my teacher, has brown hair.

Relative clause



Definition – Add extra information and start with a relative pronoun – **who, which, that, whom or whose**

Charlie, who lives next door, catches the bus to school with me.

Sentence - A sentence contains a **subject** and a **verb**. Some also contain an **object**. It is a complete thought or idea.



Subject: The person/thing that the sentence is about. Usually the subject performs the action of the verb. e.g. Harry kicked the ball.

Object: The person/thing that is affected by the verb. e.g. Harry kicked the ball.

ACTIVE - The **subject** performs the action.
e.g. Melina ate the cake.



Simple

Simple sentences contain a **subject** and a **verb**. It is a single clause.

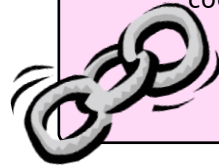
e.g. Charlie played with his new Lego bricks.
Quickly, Gabby grabbed her coat.



Compound

Compound sentences are two or more main clauses joined by a coordinating conjunction (for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so)

e.g. Harry kicked the ball **but** missed the goal.
It's cold outside **so** we put our coats on.



Complex

Complex sentences contain a **main clause** and one or more **subordinate clause**. A subordinating conjunction joins them – (if, since, as, when, after, while, although, before, until, because)

e.g. We can go outside if it stops raining.
As it is dark, we should go to bed.

Relative clauses also help to create complex sentences.

Mr Jones, who lives next door, was very angry with the dog.



Statement

Definition – from the verb 'to state', meaning to express something clearly.

How to form – A complete sentence with a subject and a verb. Tom drove his car recklessly.

Punctuation – full stop (can be an exclamation if a strong emotion is expressed) I'm not going!



PASSIVE - An action is done to someone/something. (Sometimes the person doing the action is not mentioned.)

The **object** becomes the subject and you will see the **past participle** verb form.
e.g. The cake was eaten by Melina.
The cake was eaten.

Question

Definition – from the verb 'to question', meaning to ask.

How to form – Look out for question words such as 'who', 'what', etc. Who is it?

LOOK - A statement can also be turned into a question...

I'm going to the park?

Punctuation – question mark



TYPES

Command



Definition – from the verb 'to command', meaning to give an order.

How to form – Usually start with an imperative verb. Hop on the spot.

Punctuation - full stop (can be an exclamation if a strong emotion is expressed)

Get down now!

Exclamation

Definition – from the verb 'to exclaim', meaning to cry out suddenly or express surprise.

How to form – Begin with 'What' or 'How' and end with a verb.

How strange this is!

Punctuation – exclamation mark

