

Phrase and Clause Review

All sentences need a subject and a verb.

Phrases are groups of words that are *missing* either a subject or a verb. Common phrases include preposition phrases (to the grocery store) and verb phrases (will be arriving).

Clauses differ in that they are groups of words *containing* subjects and verbs. There are two types of clauses, independent and dependent. An independent clause is a sentence. Like an independent person, it can stand alone (The Senate has voted on the bill.) However, in spite of having a subject and a verb, a dependent clause is incomplete, a fragment unable to make a complete thought. It relies on an independent clause to complete it: (*Since I arrived on time* is a fragment, but *Since I arrived on time, I was able to set-up the display* is a sentence). All dependent clauses contain subjects and verbs, but they are made incomplete by the addition of a subordinate conjunction or dependent word. This dependent word acts like a minus sign in math; its addition makes the original element smaller, in this case, less than a sentence. Here is a list of some common dependent words that, if placed in front of a sentence, will create a fragment.

after	even if	so that	when
although	even though	that	whenever
as	ever since	though	where
as if	how	unless	whether
because	if	until	which
before	since	what	while

Practice I:

Label as *Phrase (P)*, either *prepositional* or *verb phrase*; *Dependent Clause (DC)*, *fragment with subject and verb but minus/dependent word on the front*; or *Independent Clause (S)* complete sentence. Also, circle the dependent word that turns the clause into a fragment.

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| ___ 1. In the alley | ___ 9. The students studied algebra together. |
| ___ 2. Before she finished practice. | ___ 10. After we finished washing the car. |
| ___ 3. Have finished working | ___ 11. Of migraine headaches. |
| ___ 4. Maria lost her keys. | ___ 12. That you threw on the floor. |
| ___ 5. Without my brother | ___ 13. We stopped. |
| ___ 6. Until Matt and Karen finish work. | ___ 14. Will have completed |
| ___ 7. Those intruders upset the invited guests. | ___ 15. My youngest sister made the team. |
| ___ 8. After the long, difficult climb. | ___ 16. Even if we pass the test. |

Practice 2:

Fix the following *phrases* or *dependent clauses* by adding elements that complete them.

- In the morning _____.
- _____ when she fell coming down the stairs.
- Before you take a test, _____.
- _____ does not listen to the advice of his associates.
- Having finished his class, _____.