# Phrases, Clauses and Sentences



## **Objective: Identify phrases, clauses and sentences and use them correctly.**

- 1. **A phrase**: is a group of words which does not make sense on its own. It is a group of words that work together but if alone, won't make sense because it does not contain a *subject or a verb*.
  - Commas are often used to separate the phrases in order to make the meaning clearer.
  - 2. A sentence: is a group of words which makes complete sense on its own.
    - ✤ A sentence has two parts:
      - **Subject:** the person or thing which the sentence is about.
      - *Predicate:* what is written or said about the subject.

James fell off his motorbike.	
	Ļ
Subject	Predicate

**3. A clause:** is a group of words which contains a verb and is part of a sentence.

## Examples

- When she went shopping.
- Sue bought a new dress.
- Because he was hungry.

- There are two kinds of clauses:
- نگ برگ
- 1. *Main Clause:* is the most important clause. It can stand by itself and make complete sense. (Simple Sentence)



2. **Subordinate Clause:** is dependent on the main clause for its meaning. (Does not make sense on its own.)

Sometimes the subordinate clause is introduced by the pronoun
Who (when referring to a person) or the pronoun Which (when referring to an animal or thing).

# Example

# Sue bought a new dress when she went shopping.

PHRASE VS. CLA

A clause is a part of the sentence that contains a verb. A typical clause consists of a subject and a predicate, the latter typically a verb phrase, a verb with any objects and other modifiers.

### For example:

- He must stop laughing.
- They have done the job.
- Tom likes the meat.
- We like the music that you brought.



# PHRASE

A phrase is a small group of words that adds meaning to a sentence. A phrase is not a sentence because it is not a complete idea with a subject, verb and a predicate.

### For example:

- The information age (Noun phrase)
- Earnest in her desire (Adjective phrase)
- Much too quickly to see clearly (Adverb phrase)
- After a very long walk (Prepositional phrase)

Exercises: 1. In each sentence, circle the main clause. Underline the subordinate clause. Write the word that begins each subordinate clause.

a. Cleopatra lived in ancient Egypt, which she ruled.

\_\_\_\_\_Which\_\_\_\_\_

b. She ruled with her brother until she seized the throne. \_\_\_\_\_until\_\_\_\_\_

- c. She regained her throne because Julius Caesar helped her.
- d. Mark Antony ruled Rome after Caesar died.

\_\_\_\_\_after\_\_\_\_\_

- 2. In each sentence, circle the subject and underline the predicate.
- a. Amelia Bloomer did not invent bloomers.
- b. Bloomers were the first slacks for women.
- c. These pants were very loose and comfortable.
- d. Elizabeth Smith Miller became tired of long skirts and petticoats.

## 3. Write phrase or clause to identify each group of words.

- a. we enjoy living in this town. Clause (Independent clause)
- b. near friendly, helpful neighbors. \_\_\_\_\_phrase\_\_\_\_\_
- c. from the nearest ocean. \_\_\_\_\_phrase\_\_\_\_\_
- d. we built a cabin. Clause (Independent clause)

e. although my aunt does not have a medical degree. Clause (dependent clause) Subordinate clause