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ENGLISH FIRST LANGUAGE

ENGLISH FIRST LANGUAGE YEAR 7 NOTES & CLASSIFIED FULL PACKAGE

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LESSON 2 | STRUCTURE OF SENTENCES

TOPIC 1 | PHRASES AND CLAUSES

Phrases

A phrase is a group of words that work together to convey a single idea, but lack a subject, a verb, or both, resulting in an incomplete sentence. Phrases serve as building blocks in constructing sentences and add depth to the language. They enhance the overall expression, add more details that can convey shades of meaning, and enable writers and speakers to deliver nuanced meanings through the manipulation of their order within sentences.

Types of Phrases

1. Noun Phrases: A noun phrase is a group of words that revolve around a noun. It often consists of the noun itself and words that modify or describe it. These modifiers can include adjectives, articles (like "the," "a," or "an"), and even other nouns.

Example:

- The red car is mine.

In this example, the phrase "red car" is a noun phrase because it revolves around the noun "car" and includes the adjective "red."

- She admired the beautiful painting.

In the sentence, the noun phrase is "the beautiful painting." This noun phrase revolves around the noun "painting".

2. Verb Phrases: A verb phrase is made up of a main verb and its auxiliary (helping) verbs. It can also contain adverbs or other elements that modify the verb. Verb phrases convey actions, conditions, or occurrences.

Example:

- They will reach the meeting late.

In this sentence, the verb phrase is "will reach." It consists of the auxiliary verb "will" and the main verb "reach," and it indicates a future action.



- She ran quickly to catch the bus.

In this sentence, the verb phrase is "ran quickly." It consists of the main verb "ran" and the adverb "quickly" that modifies the verb and provides more information about how the action of running was carried out.

3. Adjectival Phrases: An adjective / adjectival phrase is a phrase that's headed by an adjective and provides context, clarity, or details that support that adjective. Adjectival phrases typically answer questions like "which one?" or "what kind?" in relation to the noun they modify.

Example:

- The tall, ancient tower stood proudly.

The phrase "tall, ancient" is an adjective phrase modifying the noun "tower."

- The movie was more exciting than expected.

The adjective phrase is "more exciting than expected." This phrase modifies the noun "movie" by providing a comparison and adding more detail to its quality.

- The book on the shelf is mine.

The prepositional phrase "on the shelf" functions as an adjectival phrase because it provides more information about the noun "book."

4. Adverbial Phrases: Adverbial phrases modify verbs, adjectives, or other adverbs to provide extra information about how, when, where, or to what extent an action occurs. Adverbial phrases typically answer questions about the manner, time, place, frequency, degree, or reason of an action in relation to the verb they modify.

Example:

- She ran swiftly through the forest.

The phrase "swiftly through the forest" is an adverb phrase that describes how she ran.

5. Prepositional Phrases: A prepositional phrase starts with a preposition (like "on," "under," "between") and includes a noun or pronoun called the object of the preposition. These phrases indicate relationships between different elements in time, space, or other concepts.

Example:

- He hid under the table.

The phrase "under the table" is a prepositional phrase indicating location.



6. Participial Phrases: Participial / Participle phrases begin with a participle (a verb form ending in -ing or -ed) and function as adjectives. They provide more details about a noun or pronoun.

Example:

- We tried to solve the confusing puzzle, but we failed.

The phrase "confusing" is a participial phrase describing the noun "puzzle."

- We saw her walking by the sea shore.

The phrase 'walking by the sea shore' is a participle phrase describing the pronoun 'her'.

- Terrified by the sight, the baby burst into tears.

The phrase 'Terrified by the sight' is a participle phrase describing the noun 'baby'.

7. Infinitive Phrases: Infinitive phrases start with the base form of a verb preceded by "to." They can act as nouns, adjectives, or adverbs.

Example:

- She aspires to become a doctor.

The phrase "to become a doctor" is an infinitive phrase functioning as the direct object of "aspires."

8. Gerund Phrases: Gerund phrases begin with the -ing form of a verb and act as nouns. They can function as subjects, objects, or complements in sentences.

Example:

- Studying well helps pass the exam.

The phrase "Studying well" is a gerund phrase functioning as the subject of the sentence.



Practice 1

Underline the phrase in each of the following sentences and identify its type. The first one is done for you.

1. She entered the room with confidence and pride.

Type: Adverbial phrase

2. You will find the ring in the closet.

.....

3. She was baking some cookies when she heard screams.

.....

4. Are you sure you the package with the red ribbon is yours?

.....

5. To grab your readers' attention, use questions and literary techniques.

.....

6. The building collapsed, causing massive destruction.

.....

7. The bright morning sun greeted us.

.....

8. Lost in her thoughts, she flipped the book pages.

.....

9. Down in the deep ocean, a treasure lay.

.....

10. This scene is the most incredible one

.....



Practice 2

Follow the instructions between the brackets to change the structure of the following sentences. The first two are done for you.

1. Dams are built on the rivers to prevent floods. (Use a participle phrase)

Answer: Built on the rivers, dams prevent floods.

2. The man who was wearing a black suit stole my wallet. (Replace the underlined part with an adjectival phrase)
Answer: The man in the black suit stole my wallet.

3. She smiled and accepted his invitation for dinner. (Replace the underlined part with an adverbial phrase)
.....
.....

4. The building's explosion resulted in many deaths. (Replace the underlined part with a participle phrase)
.....
.....

5. She was very arrogant when she asked me to help her with her assignment. (Replace the underlined part with a prepositional phrase to modify the verb 'asked')
.....
.....

6. The Central Park is where we will meet. (Use a prepositional phrase to deliver the same information)
.....
.....

7. He is the leader of our team, and he is the only one allowed to speak to the press. (Replace the underlined part with a participle phrase)
.....
.....



Clauses

A clause is a group of words that contains a subject and a predicate (verb), and it can function as a complete sentence or as part of a larger sentence. Clauses are the building blocks of sentences, and they provide essential information to convey meaning. Understanding the different types of clauses is crucial for constructing clear and effective sentences.

Difference between a Clause and a Phrase:

Before delving into the types of clauses, it's important to distinguish between clauses and phrases. A phrase is a group of words that lacks a subject, a verb, or both and it functions as a single unit within a sentence. Phrases can't stand alone as complete sentences, unlike clauses.

Types of Clauses

There are two types of clauses:

1- Independent Clauses (Main Clauses):

An independent clause is a complete thought that can stand alone as a sentence. It contains both a subject and a predicate and expresses a complete idea.

Example: She loves to read classic novels.

Subject: She
Verb: loves

2- Dependent Clauses (Subordinate Clauses):

A dependent clause, also known as a subordinate clause, cannot stand alone as a complete sentence. It needs to be attached to an independent clause to form a complete thought.

Example: Because she loves to read classic novels,

Subordinate conjunction: Because
Subject: she
Verb: loves

When the dependent clause is joined with an independent clause, it creates a complete sentence:

Because she loves to read classic novels, she spends hours at the library.



The most common forms of dependent clauses:

- Dependent clauses with a subordinating conjunction.

Example:

- Although they were very busy, they came to my birthday party.

In this sentence the dependent clause 'Although they were very busy' is formed by using the subordination conjunction 'although'. The clause on its own does not provide the full information and needs to be attached to an independent clause to become meaningful.

- Relative clauses

Relative clauses provide additional information about a noun and begin with relative pronouns (who, whom, whose, which, that). They help identify which specific noun the sentence is referring to.

Example:

- The book that she's reading is a classic.

Dependent clause: that she's reading

Relative pronoun: that

Subject: she

Verb phrase: is reading

The noun 'that' refers to: the book

- Noun clauses

Noun clauses act as nouns and can function as subjects, objects, or complements in a sentence. They often begin with words like "what," "who," "where," "how," or "whether."

Example:

-I can't believe what she said.

Dependent clause: What she said

Function: subject of the sentence

Subject: she

Verb: said

Ways to form dependent clauses vary, the most important thing to be taken into consideration is that the dependent clause contains a subject and a verb.



Practice 1

Underline the subordinate clause in each of the following sentences.

1. She doesn't know when the train leaves.
2. It was midnight when the fireworks exploded in the sky.
3. If things go well, we'll meet you in the club.
4. Isn't this the man who saved the boy from drowning?
5. She takes her dog with her wherever she goes.
6. He sings as if he were a professional.
7. The movie, which was released last week, received excellent reviews.
8. Since she had diligently prepared, she aced the difficult exam.
9. His biggest concern is whether he will be able to meet the deadline.
10. The city where I grew up has changed so much.
11. The scientist who developed the theory won the Nobel Prize.
12. He studied so hard that he finished the entire textbook in a week.
13. We decided to leave the meeting once we realized that the decisions had already been made.
14. The way in which she has behaved is completely unacceptable.
15. She couldn't believe what she heard from the CEO.



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