



The Phrase and the Clause

Read the following groups of words in italics in the following sentences :

- Examples :**
1. He left us *in the morning*.
 2. He left us *when the morning came*.

The group of words in sentence 1, *in the morning*, has a meaning, or makes sense, but it does not make complete sense. It is not a sentence, for it has no Subject and no Predicate. Such a group of word is called a **Phrase**. Thus, we can say,

A **Phrase** is a group of words that makes sense, but not complete. It has no Subject and no Predicate.

The group of words in sentence 2, *when the morning came*, is not a Phrase, for it has a Subject (the morning) and a Predicate (came) of its own. Such a group of words is called a **Clause**.

Thus, we can say;

A **Clause** is a group of words that forms part of a larger sentence, and has a Subject and a Predicate of its own.

Read the words in italics in the following sentences :

- Examples :**
1. He returned *at sunset*. (*Returned*, when?)
 2. He returned *when the sun set*. (*Returned*, when?)

It is evident that both the groups of words in italics, in sentences 1 and 2 do the work of an Adverb, as they show *when he returned*.

But in sentence 1, the group of words *at sunset* is a phrase. Since it does the work of an Adverb, it is called an **Adverb Phrase**.

In 2, the group of words *when the sun set* is a clause, for it has a Subject (the sun) and a Predicate (set) of its own. But since it does the work of an Adverb, it is called an **Adverb Clause**.

An **Adverb Clause** is a group of words which contains a Subject and a Predicate of its own, and does the work of an Adverb.

Read the words in italics in the following sentences :

- Examples :**
1. He likes a story *with a moral in it*. (Which story ?)
 2. He likes a story *which has a moral in it*. (Which story?)

The first group of words, *with a moral in it*, describes *what sort* of story he likes, that is, it qualifies the Noun *story* and does the work of an *Adjective*. It is, therefore, called an **Adjective Phrase**.

The second group of words, *which has a moral in it*, also describes *what sort* of story he likes and so does the work of an Adjective. But since it contains a Subject and a Predicate of its own, it is called a **Adjective Clause**.

An **Adjective Clause** is a group of words which contains a Subject and a Predicate of its own, and does the work of an Adjective.

Read the words in italics in the following sentences :

- Examples :**
1. They expected *to win the match*. (Expected what?)
 2. They expected *that they would win the match*. (Expected What)



The first group of words, *to win the match*, does not contain a Subject and a Predicate of its own. It is, therefore, a Phrase. This Phrase does the work of a Noun, since it is the Object of the Verb *expected*. It is, therefore, called a **Noun Phrase**.

The second group of words, *what they would win the match*, contains a Subject (they) and a Predicate (would win the match). It is, therefore, a Clause. This Clause is the Object of the Verb *expected* and so does the work of a Noun. It is, therefore, called a **Noun Clause**.

A **Noun Clause** is a group of words which contains a Subject and a Predicate of its own, and does the work of a Noun.

Thus, there are three kinds of Clauses :

1. The Adverb Clause.
2. The Adjective Clause.
3. The Noun Clause.



Time To Do

A. **Underline the Clauses in the following sentences, and tell the kind of each :**

1. God helps those who help themselves. _____
2. This is the house where I was born. _____
3. I do not know what she wants. _____
4. I think he will pass this year. _____
5. This is the boy who saved your child's life. _____
6. I asked her where she was going. _____
7. He expected that he would win a prize. _____
8. The boys went home when the school was over. _____
9. He will pass if he works hard. _____
10. No one knows where he lives. _____
11. The mice will play when the cat is away. _____
12. This is the house that Jack built. _____
13. People who eat too much, die early. _____
14. This is the beggar whom we met yesterday. _____

B. **Fill in the blanks with suitable Clauses :**

1. Adverb Clauses
 - (a) He will pass _____.
 - (b) He came _____.
 - (c) They fought _____.
 - (d) Make hay _____.
2. Adjective Clauses
 - (a) He lost the book _____.
 - (b) I know the man _____.
 - (c) This is the pen _____.
 - (d) They never fail _____.
3. Noun Clauses
 - (a) Do you know _____?
 - (b) He spends _____.
 - (c) We know _____.
 - (d) Can you guess _____?

