

# IS IT A PHRASE OR A CLAUSE? #3

Phrases and clauses are the grammatical building blocks of sentences. A **clause** is a group of words containing both a subject and a predicate. A clause can be independent, meaning it can stand on its own as a complete sentence, or dependent, meaning it does not express a complete thought.

- o Kiera climbed up into the treehouse **because she wanted to find a quiet place to draw**.

*This dependent clause has a subject (she) and a predicate (wanted to find a quiet place to draw), but it isn't a complete thought.*



A **phrase** is a group of words that work together as a unit without a subject, a predicate, or both.

- o Alexander, **Kiera's older brother**, joined her in the treehouse.

*This phrase contains a subject but not a predicate.*

**Part 1: Read each sentence and circle whether the highlighted words make up a phrase or a clause.**

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|--|------------------------|
| 1. I learned that <b>Astrid's favorite memory of last summer was sailing at the lake</b> .   | phrase / <b>clause</b> |
| 2. Jessa, <b>my twin sister</b> , chews her food loudly just to annoy me.  | <b>phrase</b> / clause |
| 3. After a long day of hiking, <b>Henry quickly fell asleep</b> and started snoring.   | phrase / <b>clause</b> |
| 4. Mike can take free riding lessons <b>since he works at the stables</b> .  | phrase / <b>clause</b> |
| 5. Jonah retraced his steps <b>through the entire shopping mall</b> to find his phone.   | <b>phrase</b> / clause |
| 6. All of the wedding guests received an origami swan <b>from a local artisan</b> .  | <b>phrase</b> / clause |
| 7. From the moment she <b>started playing trombone last year</b> , Kylie has insisted that she wants to be a professional jazz musician.                 | <b>phrase</b> / clause |
| 8. <b>When ants in parts of Arizona construct tunnels</b> , they sometimes excavate small, ruby-colored gemstones called "ant hill garnets."             | phrase / <b>clause</b> |
| 9. The farmers' market <b>in the parking lot</b> offers the freshest, highest-quality produce in all of Riverbend, Iowa.                                 | <b>phrase</b> / clause |
| 10. <b>The most exciting part of our trip to the Smoky Mountains</b> was catching a glimpse of a family of bears during our hike along the Little River. | <b>phrase</b> / clause |
| 11. Even though the first automobile was created in 1886, <b>most American automobiles didn't include windshield wipers until around 1913</b> .          | phrase / <b>clause</b> |
| 12. A platypus may look cuddly, but be wary <b>if you come across one in the wild</b> , as the males have venomous barbs on their hind legs.             | phrase / <b>clause</b> |

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**Part 2: Write an original sentence using the phrase or clause provided. Answers will vary.**

1. "among the stars"

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2. "made a loud noise"

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3. "it oozed down the street"

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4. "a famous movie star"

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5. "when the clock struck midnight"

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6. "in the depths of the forest"

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7. "as the sun set over the horizon"

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