

IS IT A PHRASE OR A CLAUSE? #1

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.

- **After Ally's dad woke her up**, she grabbed her journal to write down her dream.
This dependent clause has a subject (Ally's dad) and a predicate (woke her up), but it isn't a complete thought.
- Although Ally couldn't remember how the dream started, **she recalled the feeling of flying**.
This independent clause has a subject (she) and a predicate (recalled the feeling of flying), and it could stand alone as a complete sentence.

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

- Henry and Jaz took hundreds of photos **during a trip to Glacier National Park**.
This phrase does not contain a subject or a predicate.
- **The new band director at the high school** has lots of exciting ideas for next year's marching season.
This phrase contains a subject but not a predicate.
- Mr. Nakamura's colorful murals **adorn the walls of the public library downtown**.
This phrase contains a predicate but not a subject.



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

1. Monarch butterflies migrate thousands of miles each year because they can't survive the cold winters of the northern United States. phrase / **clause**
2. Traveling from all over the world, professional surfers compete on Hawaii's famous North Shore throughout the winter months. **phrase** / clause
3. Josie, my fearless and quirky cat, loves to climb on top of the kitchen cabinets. **phrase** / clause
4. Frankie rode her bike to the local batting cages every day after school because she was determined to make the softball team this year. phrase / **clause**
5. The role of a state park ranger is to protect the natural resources, ecosystems, and animals in state parks, as well as the humans who visit them. **phrase** / clause
6. By closely observing the patterns of the sun, stars, wind, and sea, ancient Polynesian navigators were able to sail to other islands across thousands of miles of open ocean. **phrase** / clause

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Keep going! Read each sentence and circle whether the highlighted words make up a clause or a phrase.

- 7. Whenever my aunt comes to visit, she takes my brother and me to a local antique store where we compete to see who can find the strangest object in the shop. phrase / **clause**

- 8. Despite their small size, microscopic marine organisms called phytoplankton produce over half of Earth's oxygen. **phrase** / clause

- 9. Crater of Diamonds State Park, located in Arkansas, is one of the only places in the world where the public can mine for diamonds at their original source. phrase / **clause**

- 10. After staying up late to finish reading a new mystery novel, Leo struggled in vain to get to sleep, but he eventually gave up and cleaned his kitchen instead. **phrase** / clause

- 11. In 2019, more than 750 climbers reached the summit of Denali, which is the highest peak in North America. phrase / **clause**

- 12. Amy and Walt worked together for more than ten years on the arboretum's collection of rare plants, and tonight they are being recognized with a special service award. **phrase** / clause

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

- 1. "as he tuned his guitar"

- 2. "it was just outside"

- 3. "a pair of sea otters"

- 4. "making a difference"

