

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

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

1. "among the stars"

2. "made a loud noise"

3. "it oozed down the street"

4. "a famous movie star"

5. "when the clock struck midnight"

6. "in the depths of the forest"

7. "as the sun set over the horizon"
