

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.

- | | |
|---|------------------------|
| <p>1. Monarch butterflies migrate thousands of miles each year because they can't survive the cold winters of the northern United States.</p> | <p>phrase / clause</p> |
| <p>2. Traveling from all over the world, professional surfers compete on Hawaii's famous North Shore throughout the winter months.</p> | <p>phrase / clause</p> |
| <p>3. Josie, my fearless and quirky cat, loves to climb on top of the kitchen cabinets.</p> | <p>phrase / clause</p> |
| <p>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.</p> | <p>phrase / clause</p> |
| <p>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.</p> | <p>phrase / clause</p> |
| <p>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.</p> | <p>phrase / clause</p> |

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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.

1. "as he tuned his guitar"

2. "it was just outside"

3. "a pair of sea otters"

4. "making a difference"
