

Types of Clauses

+ Phrases vs. Clauses

TOPICS



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 - a. Phrases vs. Clauses
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What is a Clause?



Clauses are building blocks of sentences. Actually, a clause can be a sentence itself, or part of a sentence, as long as it contains a subject and a verb.*

Test your knowledge: are these clauses?

- Ross loves Rachel.
- Because Ross loves Rachel....
- Ross and Rachel

**You might also hear the term “predicate,” which essentially means verb or verb phrase.*

Independent vs. Dependent Clauses



Both independent and dependent clauses contain a subject and a verb.
So what's the difference?

An independent (main) clause could stand on its own as a sentence.

- Monica lives with Rachel
- Monica and Rachel live in a purple apartment in New York City

A dependent (subordinate) clause CANNOT be its own sentence.

- **Since** Monica lives with Rachel
- ...**because** the apartment is purple.

Note the subordinating conjunctions **since and **because**, which are part of the dependent/subordinate clause.*

Coordinate Clauses



A coordinate clause is a type of independent clause that is part of a compound sentence.

When two independent clauses are joined by a coordinating conjunction (FANBOYS: for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so) to form a compound sentence, we then call them coordinate clauses.

Joey likes Kathy, but Chandler loves her.

Monica had Thanksgiving leftovers, so she made sandwiches.

What is a Phrase?



A phrase is a group of words. Unlike a clause, a phrase does NOT contain both a subject and verb.

Test your knowledge: are these phrases or clauses?

- Ross loves Rachel
- Because Ross loves Rachel
- Ross and Rachel
- Central Perk is in Greenwich Village
- in Greenwich Village

**Note that this is a GRAMMATICAL phrase. We can also use the word “phrase” to talk about expressions. For example, “My mom’s favorite phrase is ‘Every cloud has a silver lining.’”*

Beware the Dangling Participle!



Watch out for “dangling participles,” which make it unclear who did what in the sentence.

CORRECT: Having given up on Rachel, Ross started dating Julie.

INCORRECT: Having given up on Rachel, Julie and Ross started dating.

Grammatically, this sentence says that “Julie and Ross” gave up on Rachel, but that’s not true. Julie didn’t even know Rachel!

Final Tips for the TEAS



1. If it has both a subject and verb, it's a clause (and possibly a sentence!). If it doesn't, it's a phrase.
2. Independent clauses can form their own sentences. Dependent clauses can't.
3. When two independent clauses are joined by a FANBOYS connecting word, they become coordinate clauses.

Has both a subject and a verb: Sentence Independent clause Coordinate clause Dependent clause	May have a subject or verb, but not both: Phrase
Could (potentially) be a complete sentence: Sentence Independent clause Coordinate clause	Not a complete sentence: Dependent clause Phrase