

Phrases and Clauses: Placement and Function

Name: _____

Date: _____

Score: _____ / 10



Quick Review

A PHRASE is a group of related words with NO subject-verb pair (prepositional: 'in the park'; participial: 'running fast'; gerund: 'swimming laps'; infinitive: 'to win'; appositive: 'my best friend'). A CLAUSE has BOTH a subject and a verb. An INDEPENDENT clause stands alone as a sentence; a DEPENDENT (subordinate) clause begins with a subordinator (because, although, when, if, since, while, who, that) and cannot stand alone. Place modifying phrases and clauses RIGHT NEXT to the word they describe so the meaning is clear.

PRACTICE

Choose the correct answer for each question.

- Which group of words is a CLAUSE (not just a phrase)?
 - running through the muddy field
 - because the storm knocked out our power
 - on the top shelf of the cabinet
 - to finish the book before bedtime
- Identify the underlined group of words in this sentence: 'The hikers, exhausted from the long climb , rested at the summit.'
 - an independent clause
 - a prepositional phrase
 - a participial phrase
 - a dependent clause
- Which sentence contains a DEPENDENT (subordinate) clause?
 - Although the rain finally stopped, the field was still too wet to play.
 - The rain finally stopped, and the field was still too wet to play.
 - The rain finally stopped; the field was still too wet to play.
 - After the heavy rain, the field was still too wet to play.
- What is the function of the underlined phrase? ' Hoping to make the team , Jada practiced every morning before school.'
 - It acts as the subject of the verb 'practiced'.
 - It renames the noun 'Jada' as an appositive.
 - It is a prepositional phrase showing time.
 - It is a participial phrase modifying 'Jada'.



5. Which revision places the modifying phrase so the meaning is clearest? 'I watched the eagle soar above the canyon ___with my binoculars___.'
- A. I watched the eagle soar with my binoculars above the canyon.
 - B. With my binoculars, I watched the eagle soar above the canyon.
 - C. I watched with my binoculars the eagle soar above the canyon.
 - D. Soaring above the canyon, I watched the eagle with my binoculars.
6. Identify the underlined group of words: 'Maya's favorite hobby, ___photographing wildlife at dawn___, requires patience and quiet.'
- A. an independent clause
 - B. a prepositional phrase
 - C. a gerund phrase acting as an appositive
 - D. a dependent clause acting as a subject
7. Which sentence COMBINES the two ideas using a DEPENDENT clause? 'The bus was late. The students still arrived on time.'
- A. Although the bus was late, the students still arrived on time.
 - B. The bus was late, but the students still arrived on time.
 - C. The bus was late; the students still arrived on time.
 - D. The bus was late, and the students still arrived on time.
8. Which sentence places the underlined CLAUSE correctly to avoid confusion?
- A. The painting was admired by the critic that hung in the gallery.
 - B. The painting was admired in the gallery by the critic that hung.
 - C. The painting that hung in the gallery was admired by the critic in the gallery.
 - D. The painting that hung in the gallery was admired by the critic.
9. Combine the following two sentences into ONE sentence by turning the second sentence into a PARTICIPIAL PHRASE that modifies the subject of the first. 'The dog wagged its tail. The dog was excited to see its owner.'

10. Write ONE sentence that contains BOTH an independent clause AND a dependent clause. Underline (or mark with brackets) the dependent clause so it can be identified.



Answer Keys

- 1 A B C D
- 2 A B C D
- 3 A B C D
- 4 A B C D
- 5 A B C D

- 6 A B C D
- 7 A B C D
- 8 A B C D
- 9
- 10

Explanations

1. B	A clause must have a subject AND a verb. B has both: subject 'storm' and verb 'knocked'. A is a participial phrase (no subject — 'running' is a participle, not a finite verb). C is a prepositional phrase. D is an infinitive phrase.
2. C	The underlined group begins with the past participle 'exhausted' and modifies the noun 'hikers' — that defines a participial phrase. A is wrong because there is no subject-verb pair. B is wrong because no preposition heads the group. D is wrong because there is no subordinator and no finite verb.
3. A	A dependent clause has a subject and verb but begins with a subordinator. A opens with 'Although' + subject 'rain' + verb 'stopped' — a dependent clause. B joins two independent clauses with 'and'. C joins two independent clauses with a semicolon. D starts with the prepositional phrase 'After the heavy rain' — no subject-verb pair, so it is a phrase, not a clause.
4. D	'Hoping to make the team' begins with the present participle 'hoping' and modifies 'Jada' — that is a participial phrase. A is wrong because 'Jada' is the subject. B is wrong because the phrase does not rename Jada with a noun. C is wrong because no preposition introduces the phrase.
5. B	Modifiers belong NEXT TO the word they describe. 'With my binoculars' tells how I watched, so it must sit near 'I watched'. B places it at the front of the clause it modifies. A still suggests the eagle has binoculars. C is grammatical but awkward and splits the verb from its object. D changes the meaning by making 'I' the one soaring.
6. C	'Photographing' is a gerund (-ing form acting as a noun); the whole phrase renames 'hobby' — that makes it both a gerund phrase and an appositive. A is wrong because there is no subject-verb pair. B is wrong because no preposition heads it. D is wrong because a clause needs a finite verb.
7. A	A dependent clause begins with a subordinator like 'although', 'because', or 'when'. A turns the first idea into a dependent clause with 'Although'. B joins two independent clauses with the coordinator 'but'. C joins two independent clauses with a semicolon. D uses the coordinator 'and' — still two independent clauses.
8. D	A relative clause must sit RIGHT NEXT to the noun it describes. 'That hung in the gallery' describes 'painting', so it belongs directly after 'painting'. D does this cleanly. A places the clause next to 'critic', making it sound like the critic hung in the gallery. B leaves the clause stranded with no clear referent. C is grammatical but repeats 'in the gallery' unnecessarily.



9.	<p>Answer: Excited to see its owner, the dog wagged its tail. (Or: The dog, excited to see its owner, wagged its tail.)</p> <p>A participial phrase begins with a participle (here, 'excited') and modifies a noun. Drop the helping verb 'was' and place the phrase next to 'the dog'. Accept any answer that turns the second sentence into a participial phrase attached to 'dog'. Mark wrong if the student writes two separate sentences, keeps 'was excited' as a full verb, or attaches the phrase to a different noun (e.g., 'tail').</p>
10.	<p>Answer: [Because the storm knocked down our tent], we hiked back to the ranger station before dark. (Sample — any sentence with one independent clause + one dependent clause beginning with a subordinator is acceptable.)</p> <p>A dependent clause starts with a subordinator (because, although, when, if, since, while, after, before, who, that) and contains a subject and verb but cannot stand alone. Accept any sentence that contains exactly one identifiable dependent clause attached to one independent clause and that marks the dependent clause as instructed. Mark wrong if the student writes only an independent clause, writes two independent clauses joined by a coordinator, or marks a phrase (no subject-verb pair) as the dependent clause.</p>




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