



# PHRASE, CLAUSE, SENTENCE

# PHRASE

A group of words that states a meaning but does not have a subject and a verb.  
Every phrase has a headword that determines the type of the phrase:

1. NOUN PHRASE : a phrase with a noun as the headword (solid **rock**, book **store**, late **arrival**, beautiful **landscape**, blue **collar** etc.)
2. VERB PHRASE : a phrase with a verb as the headword, usually consists of auxiliary and verb (go fishing, can help, wish to see, have lived, wanted to participate, was called, will be attending etc.)
3. ADJECTIVE PHRASE: a phrase with an adjective as the the headword (very **cloudy**, extremely **high**, so **expensive**, rather **unwell** etc.)
4. ADVERB PHRASE: a phrase with an adverb as the headword (very **quickly**, so **well**, too **easily**).
5. PREPOSITIONAL PHRASE: a phrase with a preposition as the headword (**on** the table, **beyond** comprehension, **near** the village, **to** the cinema etc.)
6. GERUND PHRASE : a phrase with a gerund as the headword (**teaching** English, **learning** vocabulary, **sending** a message, **flying** a plane etc.)
7. INFINITIVE PHRASE: a phrase with “to infinitive” as a headword (**to study** mathematics, **to get** on the train, **to do** well etc.)

# LONG PHRASES

No matter how long a construction is, as long as it does not have a subject and verb it is a phrase.

Although a phrase has a certain meaning derived from its elements, it does not have a complete idea, thus cannot stand alone as a sentence.

Example:

1. The building in front of the town square near the public school (No S - V)
2. The man who is standing in the middle of the hall with a black briefcase on his right hand (No S-V)

The two examples are phrases and not sentences. Compare to the following sentence:

1. The building is square (It has S and V)  
S            V
2. The man stood up (it has S and V)  
S            V

# INDEPENDENT CLAUSE

- A clause is any construction that has subject and verb and can both stand alone and is part of a sentence.
- Two types of clauses: independent clause and dependent clause.
- An INDEPENDENT CLAUSE has a subject and a verb, states a complete idea and thus can stand alone.
- The other name for an independent clause is SIMPLE SENTENCE.

Examples:

The victims were carried to the hospital

S                      V

According to a report, the number of drug users has risen significantly during recent years

S                      V

Indonesia has more than 17 thousand islands

S                      V

The board will discuss the issue in the upcoming meeting

S                      V

# DEPENDENT CLAUSE

- Like independent clause, a dependent clause also has a subject and verb, but as implied by its name, it cannot stand alone as a sentence.
- It is because a dependent clause contains a subordinating conjunction or a clause connector, and should be a part of a complete sentence.

Examples:

**Because** it was already dark, (we decided to camp there)

**When** the prices goes up, (the supply tends to fall short)

**While** we ere finishing the illustration, you can print the cover)

**If** you want to succeed, (you must study hard)

**As long as** the rainfall is not sufficient, (the plants cannot grow optimally)

**That** all human beings need shelter (is a common sense)

(Public school is an institution) **which** is governed by the state

# SENTENCE

- A sentence is a group of words that has a subject and a verb and states a complete idea, beginning with a capital letter and ends in period.
- There are four types of sentence based on the number and type of the clauses it has.

## 1. SIMPLE SENTENCE

A simple sentence only has only one clause with a Subject and a verb.

Examples:

We are college students.

S V

Germany is an industrial country.

S V

Our forefathers fought against the Dutch for more than three century

S V

Red is my favorite color.

S V

We will see you next week.

S V

# SENTENCE

## 2. COMPOUND

- A compound is a sentence that consists of two independence clauses joined by a coordinating conjunction (and, but, or, so, yet, for, nor).
- Because it has two clauses, it also has two Subjects and Verbs.

Examples:

We came very early **and** the manager greeted us enthusiastically.

S V S V

Robin is very excellent at math, **but** he is not quite good at English.

S V S V

You can use my car, **or** you may stay here until tomorrow.

S V S V

Teenagers are curious at new things, **so** they are at high risk of drug abuse.

S V S V

NOTE: Never begin a sentence with a coordinating conjunction!





# SENTENCE

## 4. COMPOUND-COMPLEX

- A sentence which has mixed clauses (compound and complex)
- A compound complex has at least three clauses

Examples:

**Because** the job availability is relatively low, the unemployment rate remains high **and** only few people can afford good living.

They had to cancel the trip **but** they did not get a refund, **although** the regulation clearly said that the flight company should give the money back to the passengers.

**When** the result of the test is announced, the selected applicants should register immediately, **or** they can register by email.

# SUBJECTS

A sentence **MUST** have a SUBJECT and a VERB

SUBJECT of a sentence can be in the form of:

1. NOUN : **Books** is a good source of knowledge
2. NOUN PHRASE: **University students** should be independent and hardworking.
3. PRONOUN: **They** have been married for 25 years.
4. PROPER NOUN (name of person, places, companies, or organizations) :  
**Mitsubishi** is a one of the leading auto companies in the world.
5. GERUND : **Talking** is always easier than listening.
6. GERUND PHRASE : **Writing a good essay** needs a lot of practice.
7. TO INFINITIVE : **To study** language means to study culture.
8. NOUN CLAUSE : **What happened last year** was a pure accident.

# VERBS

A verb forms the predicate of a sentence

A verb of a sentence can be in the form of :

1. ACTION VERBS: Most Indonesian students **spend** their holyday at home.
2. TO BE : My father **was** a physician. / They will **be** here any moment. / She has **been** sick for three days.
3. LINKING VERBS (seem, feel, taste, smell, look) : He **seemed** so happy
4. AUXILIARY + VERB : We **have talked** about it.
5. TO BE + V-ING : She **is undergoing** an operation.
6. TO BE + V-III (passive sentence): The package **was delivered** this morning.
7. MODALS + VERB : We **must stop** doing this.

# COMMON MISTAKES

## 1. A sentence without SUBJECTS:

In the evening after dinner picked up my sister.

## 2. A sentence without VERBS:

A book about American history on the table in my study room.

## 3. An independent clause without a main clause:

When buffalos migrate to the South to find fresh pasture, (**main clause/independent clause**)

## 4. Using TO BE with V1 or V2:

She **was had** a beautiful house by the lake.

## 5. Not using TO BE for a sentence with complement

They here an hour ago. / His office very big

He a teacher in a private school.