Phrases & Clauses

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Definition:

- According to *Correct Writing*, a phrase is a group of related words, generally having neither a subject nor a predicate.
- In other words, a phrase is NOT a sentence (because it has no subject or verb), but it is a related set of words.
Gerund Phrases
Types of Phrases

- Gerund Phrase
  - Definition?
  - Has a gerund, plus any complements or modifiers
  - It acts as a noun

- Examples:
  - By swimming daily, Sue hoped to improve her backstroke
  - *Swimming daily* is the gerund phrase
Types of Phrases

- **Participial Phrase**
  - Definition?
  - Has a participle, plus any complements or modifiers
  - It acts as an adjective

- **Examples:**
  - Disappointed by his best friend, Roger refused to speak to him
  - *Disappointed by his best friend* is the participial phrase

- **PUNCTUATION NOTE**
  - Introductory ones are set off by commas
  - Non-essential ones are set off by commas
Types of Phrases

- **Infinitive Phrase**
  - **Definition?**
  - Has a infinitive, plus any complements or modifiers
  - It acts as a noun, adjective or adverb

- **Examples:**
  - She has a plane to catch at eight o’clock
  - *To catch at eight o’clock* is the infinitive phrase
Types of Phrases

- **Absolute Phrase**
  - Definition?
  - It is a noun and a participle together
  - It is not a subject, doesn’t modify anything, and is an independent phrase

- **Examples:**
  - The bus having stopped, the tourists filed out
  - *The bus having stopped* is the absolute phrase
  - The theater being nearby, I decided to walk
  - *The theater being nearby* is the absolute phrase

- **PUNCTUATION NOTE**
  - An absolute phrase is *always* separate from the rest of the sentence by a comma.
Types of Phrases

- **Prepositional Phrase**
  - **Definition?**
    - Preposition followed by a noun or pronoun, plus any of its modifiers
    - It acts an adjective or adverb
  - **Examples:**
    - The plan of the house is very simple
    - *Of the house* is the prepositional phrase
Types of Phrases

- **Appositive Phrase**
  - Definition?
  - It is a type of Gerund, Infinitive, or Prepositional phrase that explains, identifies, or renames a noun.

- **PUNCTUATION NOTE**
  - It is enclosed by commas unless it is essential to the meaning of the sentence
Now that we have reviewed Phrases . . .

We move onto Clauses . . .
Clauses

- An independent clause
  - A group of words containing a subject and a verb and expresses a complete thought

- A dependent clause
  - A group of words containing a subject and a verb and that do not express a complete thought
Independent Clauses

- Independent clauses can stand alone, but can be combined in one of the following ways:
  - Semi-colon
  - Coordinating conjunctions
  - Conjunctive adverb (or transitional adverb)
"We saved your life. However, your colon is now a semicolon."
Semi Colon

- Combines two independent clauses without a connecting word.
- Example
  - The day is cold. The wind is howling.
  - The day is cold; the wind is howling.
Coordinating Conjunctions

- *And, but, for, or, nor, so, and yet.*
- When joining two *independent* clauses, you must use a comma.
- Example
  - *Mrs. Brown caught the fish, and her husband cooked them.*
Conjunctive adverb/ transitional adverb

- *However, moreover, nevertheless, therefore, then, accordingly, otherwise, thus, hence, besides, and consequently.*

- A semi colon is before the words beginning the second clause. A comma is generally needed after the conjunctive adverb

- Ex.
  - We drove all day; *then* at sundown we began to look for a place to camp.
  - It rained during the day; *consequently*, our trip had to be postponed.
1. Two independent clauses + coordinating conjunction = separated by commas
2. Two independent clauses connected = separated by a semicolon
3. Two independent clauses with internal commas + coordinating conjunction = separated by a semicolon
4. Series of independent clauses + coordinating conjunction = separated by commas
Comma Splice

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

NO GRIMMY, I SAID BRING ME THE PAPER, BOY... THE PAPER, COMMA, BOY!
This is a common mistake that violates Rule #2 (Two independent clauses connected = separated by a semicolon)

What is the correct punctuation for this sentence

- I enjoyed his company, I did not know that he enjoyed mine.

Anwers

- I enjoyed his company, but I did not know that he enjoyed mine.

- OR

- I enjoyed his company; I did not know he enjoyed mine
Run-together sentence

- Also known as a run-on or a carry on sentence

Y'know, I once went to England, 'course I didn't see much, being in the hotel room most of the time... right by the nightstand, that's where she usually keeps me. She likes to keep me handy 'cause I hold some real important stuff... like a camera, extra underwear, snacks, toiletries and sometimes even money! Right now I have seventeen cents in one corner! ...I prefer traveling under the seat rather than the overhead compartment.
To Fix a run-together sentence

1. Connect two independent clauses by a comma and a coordinating conjunction
2. Connect two independent clauses by a semicolon
3. Write the two independent clauses as separate sentences
4. Subordinate one of the independent clauses.
Example

- Twilight had fallen it was dark under the old oak tree near the house
Example

Twilight had fallen it was dark under the old oak tree near the house

Using Rule #1
- Connect two independent clauses by a comma and a coordinating conjunction

- Twilight had fallen, and it was dark under the old oak tree near the house.
Example

Twilight had fallen it was dark under the old oak tree near the house

Using Rule #2

2. Connect two independent clauses by a semicolon

- Twilight had fallen; it was dark under the old oak tree near the house.
Example

Twilight had fallen it was dark under the old oak tree near the house

Using Rule #3

3. Write the two independent clauses as separate sentences

- Twilight had fallen. It was dark under the old oak tree near the house.
Example

Twilight had fallen it was dark under the old oak tree near the house

Using Rule #4
4. Subordinate one of the independent clauses.

- When twilight had fallen, it was dark under the old oak tree near the house.
Now on to dependent clauses

- A group of words containing a subject and a verb and that do not express a complete thought

- There are three types
  1. Noun Clause
  2. Adjective Clause
  3. Adverbial Clause
Dependent Clauses – subordinating words

Look for subordinating words that indicate a dependent clause, such as:

- What
- That
- Who
- Which
- When
- Since
- Before
- After
- If
Noun Clauses

According to Correct Writing, a dependent clause used as a noun, that is, as a subject, complement, object of a preposition, or appositive.

Examples

- What you intend to do is interesting
- What you intend to do
- The fact that he had not told the truth soon became apparent
- That he had not told the truth
Noun Clauses - Clues

1. key words
   - *That*
   - *What*
   - *Why*
   - *Whether*
   - *Who*
   - *Which*
   - *How*

2. If you remove the clause, what is left is generally not a complete sentence
Adjective Clauses

According to *Correct Writing*, a dependent clause that modifies a noun or pronoun

**Examples**
- She is a woman who is respected by everyone
- Who is respected by everyone
- I know the reason why I failed the course
- Why I failed the course
- My father, who was a country boy, has lived in the city for years.
- Who was a country boy
Adjective Clauses - Clues

1. key words
   - *Who* (whom, whose)
   - *Which*
   - *That*
   - *Where*
   - *When*
   - *Why*

2. **Nonessential clauses** are set off by commas.
According to *Correct Writing*, a dependent clause that functions like an adverb, that is it modifies a verb, an adjective, an adverb, or the whole idea expressed in the independent clause.

Used to show *time, place, cause, purpose, result, condition, concession, manner, or comparison.*
1. Adverb clauses tell time. Key words to look for are:

- *When*
- *Before*
- *Since*
- *As*
- *While*
- *Until*
- *After*
- *Whenever*
2. Adverb clauses tell place or location. Key words to look for are

- Where
- Wherever
- Whence
- whither
Adverbial Clauses – Cause & Purpose

3. Adverb clauses tell cause. Key words to look for are
   - Because
   - Since
   - as

4. Adverb clauses tell purpose. Key words to look for are
   - In order that
   - So that
   - that
5. Adverb clauses tell result. Key words to look for are
   - So . . . That
   - Such . . . That

6. Adverb clauses tell condition. Key words to look for are
   - If
   - Unless
7. Adverb clauses tell 
   
   **concession.**
   
   Key words to look for are
   - Though
   - although

8. Adverb clauses tell 
   
   **manner.**
   
   Key words to look for are
   - As
   - As if
   - As though
9. Adverb clauses tell comparison. Key words to look for are

- As
- than
Introductory adverbial clauses are always set off by commas.

Example:

- Although he had tests to take and a term paper to write, he went home for the weekend.
- While I was eating lunch, I had a phone call from my brother.