

Clauses

A **clause** is a group of words that contains a subject and a predicate. The main clause (**independent clause**) expresses a complete thought and can stand alone as a complete sentence.

EXAMPLES: I went to the mall. Polly exercises every day.

A **subordinate clause (dependent clause)** does not express a complete thought and must be attached to a main clause.

EXAMPLES: I met Margaret when I went to the mall.
Although Polly exercises every day, she still has weight to lose.

Subordinate clauses may be used as adjectives or adverbs.

EXAMPLES: Adjective—The politician who won the election thanked his supporters.
Adverb—I saw the movie before I read the book.

Underline the subordinate clauses in the following sentences. Tell if the clause functions as an adjective or an adverb.

1. The meeting began early because everyone was present. _____
2. If you wish, you may join our group. _____
3. I didn't recognize the man who had the coat on. _____
4. When the quarterback completed the pass, the crowd went wild. _____
5. Until the alarm rang, I was in a deep sleep. _____
6. We stopped the game when it began to pour. _____
7. Before Andrew started dieting, he felt tired all the time. _____
8. When I finish my homework, I will call you. _____
9. The painting that I bid on was sold to someone else. _____
10. The teacher who gave you the detention is very demanding. _____
11. Standing on the corner, we had good spots for the parade. _____
12. You may not leave the room before your test is complete. _____

Name _____ Date _____

A **phrase** is a **group of related words** used as a **single part of speech**. A **phrase** can act as an **adverb** to tell about a verb.

Example: The horse plunged **down the hill**. ("Down the hill" tells where the horse plunged.)

Complete each of the following sentences by adding a prepositional phrase used as an adverb. In the blank, write if the phrase tells **where**, **when**, or **how** the action happens.

- _____ 1. The snow fell _____
- _____ 2. Spring flowers bloom _____
- _____ 3. The couple strolled _____
- _____ 4. The waiter served _____
- _____ 5. Put the books _____
- _____ 6. Yachts sail _____
- _____ 7. A tiny kitten crouched _____
- _____ 8. Two chairs were placed _____
- _____ 9. A magnificent painting hung _____
- _____ 10. Derek trudged _____

Use each of the following prepositional phrases as an adverb in a sentence.



1. under the tree

2. while she knitted

3. by opening the door

4. to the grocer

5. in the tropics

6. on every corner

7. with a new key

8. beside his master

9. behind the lamp

10. above his head

In the following paragraphs, underline all of the phrases used as adverbs.

France is a colorful and interesting country in Europe. Each region of France has its own specialty. Ways of speaking, cooking, plowing, and dressing differ from region to region.

Brittany is on the Atlantic Coast where the wind blows with great force. Fishermen throw their lines in the water and hope for a good catch. The beautiful Riviera lies on the Mediterranean coast. Its cliff towns and beaches bask in warm sunlight.

In the chateaux country of the Loire Valley, castles stand on rock foundations. Normandy manufactures apple brandy and champagne. Frenchmen work with grapes to make their famous wines. Although each region is unique in some ways, Paris remains the real center of French life.

On a separate paper, write two descriptive sentences about a city with which you are familiar. Include at least one prepositional phrase used as an adverb.

An **independent clause** can stand by itself. It may be joined to another independent clause with an **adverbial connector** (*besides, however, moreover, nevertheless, therefore, etc.*) or a **conjunction** (*and, but, for, etc.*). A **subordinate clause** usually cannot stand alone. It is joined to an independent clause by a **subordinating connector** (*although, as, because, if, when, where, whereas, though, etc.*), usually acting as an adverb. When a subordinate clause is introduced by a **relative pronoun** (*that, which, who, whom, or whose*), it usually serves as an adjective.



On the lines, indicate whether the following clauses are subordinate or independent.

- _____ 1. while one company sent one million surgical masks
- _____ 2. as the ash hung over the city for thirty-three days
- _____ 3. if you enter the bank
- _____ 4. ash can change the world's climate
- _____ 5. because people were worried about the effects of ash
- _____ 6. noise of the fourth major tremor was heard 135 miles away
- _____ 7. when you wash the ashes off your porch
- _____ 8. since many ash particles were small enough to be inhaled
- _____ 9. ash took seventeen days to circle the earth
- _____ 10. many ash particles were small enough to be inhaled

A **complex sentence** contains a subordinate clause. On the lines, identify the sentences as complex or compound. If they are complex, circle the subordinate clause. In all cases, underline the simple subjects on time and the simple predicates twice.

- _____ 1. A dome of lava was seen when it glowed in the dark.
- _____ 2. The volcano grew as it cooled and cracked.
- _____ 3. While Mount St. Helens is now calm, no one knows if it will erupt again.
- _____ 4. Thirty-five people were killed and twenty-five were missing and presumed dead.
- _____ 5. Since insects were killed by the ash, the wheat, potato, and apple crops had above normal yields.
- _____ 6. In some counties, when the crops were harvested, the yield was lower than normal.
- _____ 7. The greatest loss was to wildlife, and most wildlife was lost through ash.
- _____ 8. President Carter visited the sight, and he seemed overwhelmed by the destruction.
- _____ 9. Riverbeds had to be dredged because they were clogged by mudflows.
- _____ 10. Studying the living volcano gave scientists a way to predict quakes, and they have made good use of this knowledge.

Expanding Sentences

Expand these sentences by adding phrases or clauses on the blanks.

Examples: Bill ____ stood at the door.
Bill, dressed in his best suit, stood at the door.
We all drove into town ____.
We all drove into town that very evening.

Expanding sentences can make them more interesting.

1. The person _____ wanted a donation.
2. The boy _____ brought them happiness.
3. The family visited Spain _____ .
4. They rewarded the ones who _____ .
5. Jim fed the fish _____ .
6. The policeman stood _____ .
7. I put my coat and boots _____ .
8. Because _____ , we were very disappointed.
9. During the evening, _____ .
10. The swaying car raced _____ .
11. Dan did empty the trash _____ .
12. Sally hit the ball, and it _____ .
13. The gold and orange butterfly flew _____ .
14. If _____ , I am sure you will enjoy it.

Expand these sentences by adding prepositional phrases used as adjectives to modify or describe nouns or pronouns.

15. The little boy flew the kite. _____

16. Everyone admired the cat. _____

17. Parents attended the meeting. _____
