

Phrase or Clause?

Sort sentence parts by what they contain.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.9-10.1b "Use various types of phrases (noun, verb, adjectival, adverbial, participial, prepositional, absolute) and clauses (independent, dependent; noun, relative..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

PHRASE

A phrase is a group of related words that does not contain a subject paired with a verb. It works as one part of a sentence.

beyond the quiet harbor

CLAUSE

A clause contains a subject and a verb. A clause may express a complete thought or depend on another part of a sentence.

our drummer practiced

1 SORT _____ 8 items

Circle PHRASE or CLAUSE for each item, then choose two items and explain what shows each is a phrase or clause.

1. during the museum tour

PHRASE

CLAUSE

2. a backpack full of maps

PHRASE

CLAUSE

3. the robots completed the maze

PHRASE

CLAUSE

4. painted with bright stripes

PHRASE

CLAUSE

5. although the ice had melted

PHRASE

CLAUSE

6. when the eclipse began

PHRASE

CLAUSE

7. running across the courtyard

PHRASE

CLAUSE

8. the baker will deliver the bread

PHRASE

CLAUSE

2

PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ HOW I KNEW _____

ITEM # _____ HOW I KNEW _____

3

MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new phrase and one new clause. Do not copy an item from the sort.

PHRASE _____

CLAUSE _____

CHALLENGE

Write one complete sentence that includes a phrase and a clause. Underline the phrase and circle the clause.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	during the museum tour	PHRASE	This prepositional phrase has no subject-verb pair.
2	a backpack full of maps	PHRASE	This noun phrase has no subject paired with a verb.
3	the robots completed the maze	CLAUSE	The subject is "robots," and the verb is "completed."
4	painted with bright stripes	PHRASE	This participial phrase has no stated subject paired with a verb.
5	although the ice had melted	CLAUSE	The subject is "ice," and the verb phrase is "had melted."
6	when the eclipse began	CLAUSE	The subject is "eclipse," and the verb is "began."
7	running across the courtyard	PHRASE	This participial phrase has no stated subject paired with a verb.
8	the baker will deliver the bread	CLAUSE	The subject is "baker," and the verb phrase is "will deliver."

PART 2 • PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 • MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **PHRASE:** the cracked window near the stairs
- **CLAUSE:** if the signal changes

Challenge: Before sunrise, the hikers packed their tents.

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item. For Part 2, students should identify the presence or absence of a subject-verb pair. In the challenge sample, "Before sunrise" is the phrase, and "the hikers packed their tents" is the independent clause.