Word Group Detectives

Sort phrases and clauses by what they contain.

7.L.1 "Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking; retain and further develop language skills learned in previous grades..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

PHRASE

A phrase is a group of words without its own subject and verb pair. It can add a detail to a sentence.

beneath crimson lanterns

CLAUSE

A clause has its own subject and verb. It may be a complete thought, or it may need more words to finish the thought.

because dolphins leap

1 SORT

8 items

For each numbered word group, circle PHRASE or CLAUSE, then choose two items and explain how you knew.

1.	1. along the rocky trail	**PHRASE** **CLAUSE**
2.	2. beside our soccer field	**PHRASE** **CLAUSE**
3.	3. while Mira packed her lunch	**PHRASE** **CLAUSE**
4.	4. under a wooden bench	**PHRASE** **CLAUSE**
5.	5. since the storm ended	**PHRASE** **CLAUSE**
6.	6. when the bus arrived	**PHRASE** **CLAUSE**
7.	7. after the final bell	**PHRASE** **CLAUSE**
8.	8. through a narrow doorway	**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.

PHRASE _____

CLAUSE _____

CHALLENGE

Write a complete sentence with a dependent clause and a phrase, then bold the dependent clause and underline the phrase.

ANSWER KEY # Word Group Detectives

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	1. along the rocky trail	**PHRASE**	No subject and verb pair.
2	2. beside our soccer field	**PHRASE**	No subject and verb pair.
3	3. while Mira packed her lunch	**CLAUSE**	Mira is the subject, and packed is the verb.
4	4. under a wooden bench	**PHRASE**	No subject and verb pair.
5	5. since the storm ended	**CLAUSE**	Storm is the subject, and ended is the verb.
6	6. when the bus arrived	**CLAUSE**	Bus is the subject, and arrived is the verb.
7	7. after the final bell	**PHRASE**	No subject and verb pair.
8	8. through a narrow doorway	**PHRASE**	No subject and verb pair.

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**: across the frozen pond
- **CLAUSE**: if the kitten sneezes

Challenge: After the lights dimmed, the audience whispered in the theater.

For Part 2, accept explanations that identify a subject and verb in a clause or explain that a phrase lacks that pair. For Part 3, accept other original examples that meet the same criteria.