

Phrase or Clause

Spot the verb forms that make sentences leaner and more varied.

11.LU.1.A "Use verbal phrases to achieve sentence conciseness and variety in speaking and writing."

NAME _____

DATE _____

VERBAL PHRASE

A verbal phrase uses a verb form that is not the main verb. In these phrases, no subject is paired with a finite verb.

without interrupting the speaker

CLAUSE

A clause includes a subject and a finite verb. A clause can be dependent, so it may not stand alone.

although the speaker paused

1 SORT _____ 8 items

Circle VERBAL or CLAUSE for each item, then choose two items and explain whether each has a verbal phrase or a subject and finite verb.

- | | | |
|---|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. to map the shoreline | ☐ VERBAL | ☐ CLAUSE |
| 2. crossing the finish line | ☐ VERBAL | ☐ CLAUSE |
| 3. although the lights flickered | ☐ VERBAL | ☐ CLAUSE |
| 4. to strengthen the argument | ☐ VERBAL | ☐ CLAUSE |
| 5. when the bell rang | ☐ VERBAL | ☐ CLAUSE |
| 6. the researchers published their findings | ☐ VERBAL | ☐ CLAUSE |
| 7. having solved the puzzle | ☐ VERBAL | ☐ CLAUSE |
| 8. collecting data at dawn | ☐ VERBAL | ☐ 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 VERBAL example and one new CLAUSE example.

VERBAL _____

CLAUSE _____

CHALLENGE

Rewrite this sentence by replacing the opening clause with a verbal phrase: "After the reporter interviewed the witness, she drafted the article."

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	to map the shoreline	VERBAL	An infinitive phrase, with no stated subject and finite verb.
2	crossing the finish line	VERBAL	A participial phrase, with no stated subject and finite verb.
3	although the lights flickered	CLAUSE	It has the subject "lights" and the finite verb "flickered."
4	to strengthen the argument	VERBAL	An infinitive phrase, with no stated subject and finite verb.
5	when the bell rang	CLAUSE	It has the subject "bell" and the finite verb "rang."
6	the researchers published their findings	CLAUSE	It has the subject "researchers" and the finite verb "published."
7	having solved the puzzle	VERBAL	A perfect participial phrase, with no stated subject and finite verb.
8	collecting data at dawn	VERBAL	A participial phrase, with no stated subject and finite verb.

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)

- **VERBAL:** to compare the results
- **CLAUSE:** because the results differed

Challenge: After interviewing the witness, the reporter drafted the article.

For Part 2, accept explanations that identify an infinitive, an -ing form, or a past-participle form without a stated subject and finite verb in these VERBAL items, or a subject plus a finite verb in CLAUSE items. For the challenge, accept equivalent revisions that use a verbal phrase and clearly modify the reporter.