

Basic English Review

Unit 9

Phrases and Clauses

Objectives

- To recognize and use prepositional, infinitive, and participial phrases
- To recognize and use independent and dependent (subordinate) clauses
- To recognize and write effective and grammatically correct compound sentences

Phrases

- A **phrase** is a group of related words used as a noun, an adjective, or an adverb.
- It does not contain both a subject and a verb.
- Three important types of phrases
 - Prepositional
 - Infinitive
 - Participial

Prepositional Phrases

- **Prepositional phrases** are used as adjectives to modify nouns or pronouns.
 - The car in the driveway belongs to Hannah.
 - in the driveway—prepositional (adjective) phrase. The phrase modifies the noun *car*.
- They are also used as adverbs to modify verbs, adjectives, or other adverbs.
 - My cell phone rang during class.
 - during class—prepositional (adverbial) phrase. The phrase modifies the verb *rang*.

Prepositional Phrases

- Identify the prepositional phrase. Indicate whether it is an adjective or an adverbial phrase, and identify what it modifies.
 - The woodchucks live under the front porch.
 - The goldfish with the blue spot is my favorite.
 - My workout will last until 10 p.m.
 - The dog park is around the corner.
 - Take Patricia into the candy store.
 - The clock on my computer is wrong.

Infinitive Phrases

- An **infinitive phrase** consists of an **infinitive** and any objects or modifiers.
- Most infinitive phrases are used as nouns (as either the subject or the direct object of the sentence).
- They may also be used as adverbs or adjectives.
- Infinitive phrases may contain other types of phrases.

Infinitive Phrases

- To own her own business is Kara's dream.
 - To own her own business—infinitive phrase. The phrase is used as a noun (subject).
- Linda began to save money regularly.
 - to save money regularly—infinitive phrase. The phrase is used as a noun (direct object of the verb *began*).
- Sam worked on the financials to show investors the ROI.
 - to show investors the ROI—infinitive phrase. The phrase is used as an adverb and modifies the verb *worked*.

Infinitive Phrases

- Identify the infinitive phrase. Indicate whether it is used as a noun, an adjective, or an adverb.
 - Stella runs to clear her mind.
 - The process to value a house is complicated.
 - Would you like to volunteer as a mentor?
 - To graduate with honors would be unbelievable.
 - Anthony wants to build a garage on his property.
 - Joan's plan to intern at a top accounting firm may be possible.

Participial Phrases

- A **participial phrase** begins with the present or past participle.
- The participle and the rest of the phrase act as an adjective to modify a noun or pronoun.
- A participial phrase does not have a subject.
 - Traveling through Europe, Summer saw many historical sites.
 - Traveling through Europe—participial phrase. It modifies the noun *Summer*.

Participial Phrases

- Write three sentences that contain a participial phrase.

Clauses

- A **clause** is a part of a sentence that contains a complete subject and a complete predicate.
- There are two kinds of clauses:
 - Independent
 - Dependent

Independent Clauses

- An **independent clause** expresses a complete thought and has a subject and a verb.
- It is the main thought of the sentence and can stand alone as a simple sentence.
 - My course load was very heavy, which meant I had to manage my time wisely.
 - My course load was very heavy—independent clause. It is the main idea of the sentence and can be used alone as a simple sentence.

Dependent Clauses

- A **dependent clause** depends on an independent clause for understanding.
- A dependent clause on its own is not a complete sentence.
- Dependent clauses may be used as adjectives, adverbs, or nouns.

Dependent Clauses

- Dependent clauses used as adjectives are often introduced by relative pronouns and sometimes by adverbs like *when*, *where*, or *why*.
 - The play, which is being performed at Avo Theater, was written by a classmate of mine.
 - which is being performed at Avo Theater—dependent clause introduced by the relative pronoun *which*. It modifies the noun *play*.

Dependent Clauses

- Dependent clauses used as adverbs are introduced by subordinating conjunctions.
- They usually modify verbs, but sometimes they modify adjectives or adverbs.
- They answer questions like *how, where, when, why, to what extent, or under what conditions*.
 - Brian drove because he had to get in early.
 - because he had to get in early—dependent clause introduced by the subordinating conjunction *because*. It modifies the verb *drove*.

Dependent Clauses

- Dependent clauses used as nouns are **noun clauses**.
- Most are used as subjects or direct objects; occasionally, they are used as indirect objects or objects of prepositions.
- Look for the verb first, and then determine how the clause is used.
- Most noun clauses are introduced by a word like *that, how, why, what, whatever, whoever, or whether*, followed by a group of words used as a single noun.

Dependent Clauses

- How Caleb finished all that work is a mystery to me.
 - How Caleb finished all that work—dependent clause used as a noun. It is the subject of the verb *is*.
- Rachel and Emory said that we should carpool to the concert.
 - that we should carpool to the concert—dependent clause used as a noun. It is the direct object of the verb *said*.

Dependent Clauses

- Identify the dependent clause. Indicate if it is used as an adjective, an adverbial, or a noun clause.
 - Samarath, who recently graduated from college, will serve as project manager.
 - That we choose Dominick to be the team leader is an acknowledgment of our confidence in him.
 - When the cows came home, the farmer closed the gate.
 - Because the grass is so high, you may have to mow twice.