

PHRASES AND CLAUSES

Instructions: This section tests the identification of phrases and clauses and their types. Candidates are required to fill in the given SIX (6) blanks, using the appropriate term. **6 Marks**

Model Question

Q. 1 Fill in the blanks with the appropriate type of phrase/clause in the following paragraph:

prepositional phrase	adjective clause	adverb clause	gerund phrase	noun clause	participial phrase
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The book on the table is mine. Here, "on the table" is a _____¹ that shows the location of the book. The man who won the race is my uncle. Here, "who won the race" is an _____² modifying "the man". She left before the rain started. Here, "before the rain started" is an _____³ showing time. Swimming in the lake is refreshing. Here, "swimming in the lake" is a _____⁴ acting as the subject. I know that he is honest. Here, "that he is honest" is a _____⁵ acting as the object. Exhausted after the match, the players went home. Here, "exhausted after the match" is a _____⁶ describing "the players".

PHRASES AND CLAUSES

PHRASES AND CLAUSES:

A **phrase** is a group of related words that does **not** contain a subject and a finite verb, and functions as a single part of speech. A **clause** is a group of words that **does** contain a subject and a finite verb. Clauses are either **independent** (can stand alone as a sentence) or **dependent/subordinate** (cannot stand alone and depends on an independent clause).

Formula: Phrase = Words (no subject + finite verb) | Clause = Words (subject + finite verb)

Examples:

- in the morning — **phrase** (no subject or verb)
- when the sun rises — **clause** (subject "the sun" + verb "rises")

CATEGORIES / TYPES

No.	Type	Definition	Example
1	Noun Phrase	A phrase functioning as a noun	the tall building
2	Adjective Phrase	A phrase describing a noun	full of energy
3	Adverb Phrase	A phrase modifying a verb	in a great hurry
4	Prepositional Phrase	Begins with a preposition + object	under the old bridge
5	Gerund Phrase	-ing form of a verb functioning as a noun	Reading novels is fun.

No.	Type	Definition	Example
6	Infinitive Phrase	to + verb, functioning as noun/adjective/adverb	to win the match
7	Participial Phrase	Verb+ing/ed form acting as an adjective	Running fast, he won the race.
8	Independent Clause	Has a subject and verb; makes complete sense alone	She sings well.
9	Noun Clause	Dependent clause functioning as a noun	I know that she is honest.
10	Adjective Clause	Dependent clause describing a noun	The man who called is my uncle.
11	Adverb Clause	Dependent clause showing time, reason, condition, etc.	Because it rained, we stayed home.

PRACTICE EXERCISES

PRACTICE 1

State whether the bracketed part of each sentence is a phrase or a clause, and name its type.

1. [Under the old bridge], the children found a hidden cave.
2. The book [that I borrowed from the library] is fascinating.
3. [Swimming every morning] keeps him fit.
4. She left [before the meeting ended].
5. [Full of hope], the team entered the final match.
6. I believe [that honesty is the best policy].

PRACTICE 2

State whether the bracketed part of each sentence is a phrase or a clause, and name its type.

1. [To pass the exam], she studied every night.
2. The girl [who won the scholarship] is my neighbour.
3. He waited [near the old church].
4. [Exhausted after the long journey], they went straight to bed.
5. We will leave [as soon as the rain stops].
6. [Eating vegetables daily] is good for health.

PRACTICE 3

State whether the bracketed part of each sentence is a phrase or a clause, and name its type.

1. The house [on the corner] belongs to my uncle.
 2. [Because he was late], he missed the bus.
 3. [Written in a hurry], the letter had several mistakes.
 4. My goal is [to become a doctor].
 5. She told me [that she would visit tomorrow].
 6. The man [who repaired our car] is very skilled.
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PRACTICE 4

State whether the bracketed part of each sentence is a phrase or a clause, and name its type.

1. [At the end of the street], there is a small bakery.
 2. [Working hard every day], she finally achieved success.
 3. He does not know [where the keys are].
 4. The players [who trained the hardest] won the tournament.
 5. [To improve his English], he reads a book every day.
 6. We stayed indoors [because the storm was severe].
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PRACTICE 5

State whether the bracketed part of each sentence is a phrase or a clause, and name its type.

1. [Covered with snow], the mountains looked stunning.
 2. I wonder [if he will come to the party].
 3. She lives [in a small village near the river].
 4. [Playing chess] sharpens the mind.
 5. The teacher [whom we all respect] is retiring this year.
 6. He ran fast [so that he would not miss the train].
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PRACTICE 6

State whether the bracketed part of each sentence is a phrase or a clause, and name its type.

1. [Frightened by the loud noise], the cat ran away.
2. This is the place [where we first met].

3. [To win the championship] was his lifelong dream.
4. She whispered [that the surprise was ready].
5. [Beyond the hills], the sun was setting slowly.
6. The dog [barking loudly at the gate] belongs to our neighbour.

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