

THE CLAUSE

A **clause** is a group of words containing a verb and its subject. A clause that can stand by itself as a sentence is a main **clause**.

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|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| S V | S V |
| ex. He walked down the street. | Ken plays in the band. |

A clause that cannot stand by itself is a **subordinate clause**.

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|--|--|
| S V | |
| ex. As I approached the house-(What happened?) | |
| S V | |
| If you come to my house-(Then what?) | |

Phrase or Clause? A clause has a subject and a verb. A phrase does not.

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| ex. <u>Losing my amethyst ring</u> was a blow. (phrase) | |
| <u>When I lost my ring</u> , I was unhappy. (clause) | |

Identify Clauses and Phrases. Read each sentence below. If the underlined group of words is a phrase, write **P**. If it is a clause, write **C**.

Example: When I recover from the flu, I'll leave on my trip. C

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| 1. <u>If you have solved that puzzle</u> , here's a harder one. | _____ |
| 2. <u>Walking toward the old house</u> , Joan met no one. | _____ |
| 3. The box <u>on the table</u> contains Jack's birthday present. | _____ |
| 4. Do you know <u>what is in the box</u> ? | _____ |
| 5. We saw the old woman <u>climbing the stairs</u> . | _____ |
| 6. <u>Nodding to me casually</u> , the principal went into his office. | _____ |
| 7. <u>When Amy saw her father</u> , she rushed up to him. | _____ |
| 8. We saw the old woman as <u>she climbed the stairs</u> . | _____ |
| 9. <u>After listening to the teacher's directions</u> , the class began to take the test. | _____ |
| 10. This is the record <u>that I sent for</u> . | _____ |
| 11. <u>Smiling cheerfully</u> , Kim walked down the hall. | _____ |
| 12. <u>If you can spare the time</u> , let's go to the movie tonight. | _____ |
| 13. <u>Standing down the hall</u> , Mr. Sims looked neither right nor left. | _____ |
| 14. <u>When I came home</u> , I found my brother there ahead of me. | _____ |
| 15. <u>Opening the mail</u> , Mrs. Harris found three bills. | _____ |
| 16. <u>After they had fought the cold in January</u> , the Millers went south in February. | _____ |
| 17. <u>If you like Nantucket</u> , you will love Washington Island. | _____ |
| 18. There goes the ambulance, <u>hurrying to the hospital</u> | _____ |
| 19. Be quiet <u>until the buzzer sounds</u> . | _____ |
| 20. <u>Standing in the rain at the parade</u> , Fred got drenched. | _____ |

1. If you have solved that puzzle, here's a harder one. C
2. Walking toward the old house, Joan met no one. P
3. The box on the table contains Jack's birthday present. P
4. Do you know what is in the box? C
5. We saw the old woman climbing the stairs. P
6. Nodding to me casually, the principal went into his office. P
7. When Amy saw her father, she rushed up to him. C
8. We saw the old woman *as* she climbed the stairs. C
9. After listening to the teacher's directions, the class began to take the test. P
10. This is the record that I sent for. C
11. Smiling cheerfully, Kim walked down the hall. P
12. If you can spare the time, let's go to the movie tonight. C
13. Striding down the hall, Mr. Sims looked neither right nor left. P
14. When I came home, I found my brother there ahead of me. C
15. Opening the mail, Mrs. Harris found three bills. P
16. After they had fought the cold in January, the Millers went south in February. C
17. If you like Nantucket, you will love Washington Island. C
18. There goes the ambulance, hurrying to the hospital. C
19. Be quiet until the buzzer sounds. C
20. Standing in the rain at the parade, Fred got drenched. P