

## Grade 7 Playlist: Phrases and Clauses

*Aligns with CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.7.1.A:*

- Explain the function of phrases and clauses in general and their function in specific sentences.

### Welcome

Sentences and paragraphs are made up of a series of phrases and clauses. These phrases and clauses give sentences their meaning and help describe what is going on. The different types of phrases and clauses can be used together to create different types of sentences.

### Objectives

In this playlist, students will learn how to:

- understand the difference between phrases and clauses.
- understand how different kinds of phrases and clauses are used in sentences.

### Review

#### Key Terms

- A **clause** is a part of a sentence that includes a subject and a predicate.
- A **phrase** is a group of two or more words that does not contain both a subject and a predicate.
- An **independent clause** is a clause that can stand on its own as a sentence.
- A **dependent clause** is a clause that cannot stand on its own as a sentence.
- An **adjective clause** is a dependent clause used to describe a noun or a pronoun.
- An **adverb clause** is a dependent clause that describes a verb, an adjective, or an adverb in a main clause.
- A **noun clause** is a dependent clause that functions as a noun in a sentence.
- A **conjunction** is a word placed between words, phrases, or clauses to connect them.
- A **predicate** is the part of a sentence or clause that contains a verb.



## Exploring the Standard

Phrases and clauses must be formed correctly in a sentence. Each clause has a subject and a predicate, while phrases have either a subject or a verb. When phrases and clauses are combined, they are sometimes connected by words such as *or*, *and*, *yet*, or *but*. These words are called **conjunctions**. In order to have sentence variety, writers can use different combinations of phrases and clauses.

### A Closer Look: Phrases vs. Clauses

Phrases and clauses can both vary in length. The only difference between them is that clauses have both a subject and a predicate, while phrases have one or the other. Look at the underlined parts of the following sentences:

- After the party, I went straight to bed. (*phrase*)
- I am exhausted. (*clause*)
- The party was fun until I started arguing with my friend. (*clause*)
- I apologized with a heartfelt text and a funny picture. (*phrase*)

Even though clauses can be long or short, there will always be a subject and a predicate included. The subject and predicate are bolded in the above sentences with clauses. The phrases in the example sentences had subjects but no predicate.

### Practice!

Learn to identify phrases and clauses with this activity:

- [http://www.softschools.com/quizzes/grammar/phrase\\_or\\_clause/quiz2825.html](http://www.softschools.com/quizzes/grammar/phrase_or_clause/quiz2825.html)

### A Closer Look: Types of Phrases

Several different types of phrases can be used in sentences. Although the types of words that make up the sentence can vary, no phrase contains both a subject and a predicate. The chart below has some examples of common types of phrases.

Phrase	Definition	Example
infinitive phrase	phrase starting with the word <i>to</i> and a verb	I love <u>to eat steak</u> . Ivan really didn't want <u>to tell the story</u> .
gerund phrase	phrase beginning with a gerund (a verb ending in <i>-ing</i> that functions as a noun)	They love <u>playing basketball</u> . Jerome tried <u>singing a new song</u> .
participial phrase	phrase beginning with a participle (a verb ending in <i>-ing</i> or <i>-ed</i> that functions as an adjective)	The mouse <u>hiding in the corner</u> was small. <u>Locked in the room</u> , we got scared.
prepositional phrase	phrase containing a preposition	They left the keys <u>in the car</u> . Marcie looked <u>under the coffee table</u> .

