

PHRASES & CLAUSES

Grade 5 English Worksheet • Learn it, spot it, use it!

Name: _____

Date: _____

1. Let's understand!

PHRASE

A group of words that works together but does **not** express a complete thought on its own.

Examples: under the table • a bright red kite • after lunch

CLAUSE

A group of words that contains a **subject** and a **verb**.

Examples: the baby laughed • when the bell rang • I finished my work

Remember: A clause has a subject and a verb. Some clauses make complete sense alone (independent clauses); others need more words to complete the thought (dependent clauses).

Quick examples

Words	Type	Why?
in the garden	Phrase	No subject + verb combination
the dog barked	Clause	Subject: dog; verb: barked
because it was raining	Dependent clause	Has a subject and verb, but feels unfinished
We played outside.	Independent clause	A complete thought

2. Practise what you know!

Read each question carefully. Write neatly and try your best.

Exercise A — Phrase or clause? (5 marks)

Write **P** for phrase or **C** for clause.

1. beside the river _____
2. my sister smiled _____
3. before the show _____
4. the birds are singing _____
5. a basket of apples _____

Exercise B — Underline the subject and circle the verb. (4 marks)

Example: The cat (subject) **jumped** (verb) over the wall.

1. The children laughed loudly.
2. My teacher explained the lesson.
3. The little bird flew away.
4. Sara reads every evening.

Exercise C — Complete the thought. (4 marks)

Finish each dependent clause by adding a main clause.

1. When the rain stopped, _____.
2. Because I was hungry, _____.
3. After we finished lunch, _____.
4. Although the bag was heavy, _____.

3. Challenge yourself!

Use what you have learned to create your own examples.

Exercise D — Sort the word groups. (6 marks)

Write each item under **Phrase** or **Clause**.

Word group	Phrase or clause?
1. during the holidays	_____
2. the sun was shining	_____
3. near the old bridge	_____
4. if you need help	_____
5. a very tall building	_____
6. Dad cooked dinner	_____

Exercise E — Make your own! (4 marks)

1. Write one phrase: _____
2. Write one clause: _____
3. Write one sentence that contains a phrase: _____
4. Write one sentence that begins with "Because...": _____

Exit ticket: What is one difference between a phrase and a clause?

TEACHER'S ANSWER KEY

Suggested answers for checking and discussion

Exercise A

1. P 2. C 3. P 4. C 5. P

Exercise B

1. Subject: children; verb: laughed
2. Subject: teacher; verb: explained
3. Subject: bird; verb: flew
4. Subject: Sara; verb: reads

Exercise C — Sample answers

Answers will vary. Examples:

1. When the rain stopped, we went outside.
2. Because I was hungry, I ate a sandwich.
3. After we finished lunch, we washed the dishes.
4. Although the bag was heavy, I carried it home.

Exercise D

1. Phrase 2. Clause 3. Phrase 4. Clause (dependent) 5. Phrase 6. Clause

Exercise E and Exit ticket

Answers will vary. Check that a phrase is a group of words without a subject–verb combination expressing a clause, and that a clause contains a subject and a verb. For “Because...” sentences, students should complete the thought with a main clause.

Well done! Keep practising and you'll become a grammar star. ★