

CHAPTER-XIV

A Phrase and a Clause

A PHRASE

Study the following sentences :

1. He is *a fool of the first water*.
2. He shouted *at the top of his voice*.
3. He turned *a deaf ear to my advice*.
4. The ancestral property became *a bone of contention* between the two brothers.

The italicized groups of words in the above sentences make some sense but not a complete sense. They are a part of a sentence but they cannot stand alone. They have neither a subject nor a predicate. Such groups of words are called "Phrases".

A "Phrase" is a group of words in a sentence which makes some sense but not a complete sense and which has neither a subject nor a predicate.

A CLAUSE

Examine the following sentences :

1. He cannot decide where to go.
2. He did not know what to go.
3. He is the type of person who is liked by everyone.

In these sentences, each has two parts and each part helps to complete the sense of the whole sentence. These parts are called "clauses".

EXERCISE-XVII

Say whether the underlined groups of words in the following sentences are phrases or clauses :

1. She appeared to be *a born speaker*.
2. He met his friend *with open arms*.
3. Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru was born *with a silver spoon in his mouth*.
4. He ran fast so that *he might catch the bus*.
5. I saw an old man *who was begging*.
6. It is difficult to say *what is in his mind*.
7. We shall not go out *if it is raining*.
8. The students came to school *by and by*.
9. He is a man who *never tells a lie*.
10. *Two of a trade* seldom agree.
11. *In spite of his many faults* he is good at heart.
12. *Handsome is that handsome does*.

KINDS OF CLAUSES

As already pointed out, a clause is a group of words which is a part of a sentence, having a verb of its own. Clauses are of three kinds according to their rank, standing or function in a sentence.

1. Principal Clause.
2. Subordinate Clause.
3. Co-ordinate Clause.

Examine the following sentences :

1. As soon as he knocked at the door, *I came out.*

2. *My friend said* that he would go to Delhi.

Each of the above sentences has two parts. The parts, "I came out" and "My friend said" are such as to make a complete sense. They can stand alone. Such a group of words is called "The Principal Clause".

"A Principal Clause is a group of words in a sentence which can stand alone and which does not depend on any other part of the sentence to make its meaning clear."

Now look at the second part of each of the above sentences. It may be noted that these cannot stand alone. Their meaning is not clear without the Principal Clause. Such parts of the sentence are called "Subordinate Clauses".

"A Subordinate Clause is a group of words which cannot stand alone in a sentence and depends upon the Principal Clause to make its meaning complete."

Now examine the following sentences :

1. He ran fast and won the race.

2. The bell rang and we went into the room.

Each of the above sentences has two clauses, joined by 'and'. Each clause is a sentence by itself. It can stand alone. Both are of equal rank. Neither is subordinate to the other. Such clauses are called "Co-ordinate Clauses."

KINDS OF SENTENCES

Sentences are of three kinds :

1. Simple Sentence.
2. Complex Sentence.
3. Compound Sentence.

A. Simple Sentence

Examine the following sentences :

1. They work hard.
2. The girls sing a song.
3. The boys are playing.

All the above sentences have only one main verb. They are simple sentences.

"All simple sentences is one which has only one main verb."

B. Complex Sentence

Examine the following sentences :

1. I do not know where my friend lives.
2. Handsome is that handsome does.
3. Only the wearer knows where the shoe pinches.

Each of the above sentences has two clauses- one clause is a principal clause and the other is a subordinate clause. These sentences are "Complex Sentences".

"A complex sentence is one which has a principal clause and one or more than one subordinate clauses.

C. Compound Sentence

Study the following sentences :

1. Art is long and time is short.
2. Work hard or you will fail.

Each of the above sentences has two clauses joined by conjunction 'and' and 'or'. Each of the clauses can stand alone. They are of equal rank. Such sentences are called "Compound Sentences".

"A sentence which is made up of two or more than two co-ordinate clauses, is called a compound sentence."

EXERCISE-XVIII

- (a) Break up the following sentences into Principal, Subordinate and Co-ordinate clause and say whether the sentence in each case is complex or compound.
1. Work hard lest you should lose your first division.
 2. The book which I am reading is very interesting.
 3. I advised him much but he turned a deaf ear to my advice.
 4. They also serve who only stand and wait.
 5. All that glitters is not gold.
 6. I don't know how he finds time to wander about.
 7. Fools rush in where angels fear to tread.
 8. It is folly to be wise where ignorance is bliss.
 9. Man proposes but God disposes.
 10. We eat to live and not live to eat.
- (b) Make complex sentences with the help of the following words if, until, unless, provided, that, who, what, why, where, which, who, whose, either - or, neither - nor, as, if, although.
- (c) Make compound sentences with the help of the following structures :
- But, and, or, otherwise

SUBORDINATE CLAUSE

There are three kinds of subordinate clauses namely :

- (1) The Noun Clause.
- (2) The Adjectival Clause.
- (3) The Adverbial Clause.

I. NOUN CLAUSE

Study the following sentences :

1. He told me the news.
2. He told me that he had won the scholarship.

In sentence (1) above the object of told is "news" which is a noun. In sentence (2) Above the object of told is that he had won the scholarship which is a clause doing the work of a noun. So a noun clause is a group of words which does the work of a noun in a sentence."

Since the noun clause does the work of a noun in a sentence, it can function as I. Subject of the verb II. (a) Object of the verb. II. (b) Object of the infinitive II. (c) Object of the participle III. Object of the preposition. IV. Complement of the verb. V. In apposition to the noun or pronoun.

1. Subject to a verb

Examine these sentences :

- (a) *What he wrote* was correct.
- (b) *That he will pass*, is quite definite.
- (c) *When he will come back* is uncertain.

In the above sentences, the group of words italicised are doing the work of a noun functioning as a subject of the verbs : was, is and is they are all noun clauses subject to the verbs, was, is, is.

2. (a) Object to a transitive verb

Look at these sentences :

- (a) He does not know *when he will return*.
- (b) I told him that *he should take care of his health*.
- (c) He asked me *why I had not written to him earlier*.

The groups of words italicised in the above sentences are doing the work of a noun functioning as object to the transitive verb "know", "told", "asked". They are noun clauses object to the transitive verbs preceding them.

(b) Object to infinitive

Study these sentences :

- 1. I want to know *why you have beaten my child*.
- 2. I am glad to learn that *he has won a scholarship*.

In the above sentences, the italicised groups of words are doing the work of a noun in each case, functioning as object to infinitive, to know, to learn. These are noun clauses object to the infinitive preceding them.

(c) Object to a participle

Study these sentences :

- (a) He ran away *crying that he would never return*.
- (b) *Believing that he was about to die*, he sent for his only son.

In the above sentences, the italicised words are object to participles "crying" and "believing". They are noun clauses object to the participle preceding them.

3. Object to a preposition

Look at the following sentences :

- (a) Your future depends on *how much hard work you put in*.
- (b) You must attend to *what your teacher teaches*.

In these sentences, the groups of words, italicised are noun clause object to the prepositions 'on' and 'to', preceding them.

4. Complement to a verb

Study the following sentences :

- (a) You are *what you think*.
- (b) The fact is *that he is a great man*.

In these sentences the group of words, italicised are complements to the verbs 'are' and 'is' and they are the noun clauses complement to the verbs 'are' and 'is'.

5. In apposition to a noun

Examine the following sentences :

- (a) The news that *their commander was alive* put new life into the soldiers.

(b) The feeling that *we shall reach our destination* kept us moving.

In the above sentences, the italicised groups of words are doing the work of nouns in apposition. They are noun clauses in apposition to the noun as preceding them.

Note : To simplify this function of noun clause, it may be said that the word 'apposition' means placing side by side. So when a noun clause is placed side by side of a noun or a pronoun, or added to a noun or a pronoun. It is in apposition to that noun or pronoun.

A tip for identifying a noun clause.

Substitute the word "something" for a subordinate clause and if the sentence makes a complete sense, the clause so replaceable is a noun clause.

Example : "What he did was surprising"

In this sentence "what he did" is a noun clause. Substitute "Something" for this and the sentence becomes, "Something was surprising" which makes a meaningful sentence and hence, "what he said" is a noun clause.

EXERCISE-XIX

Analyse the following sentences, given the function of each :

Example : He said thatunion is strength.

He said.....Principal Clause.

That.....Connective.

Union is strength.....A noun clause object to the verb 'said'. It is a complex sentence.

1. The officer wanted to know why he had come late.

2. He told him that he would never see his face.

3. What he said was all nonsense.

4. Everything depends on, how he behaves.

5. The fact is that he is always telling a lie.

6. We are what our parents make us.

7. He does not listen to what his father says.

8. She went out crying that she was fainting.

II. THE ADJECTIVAL CLAUSE

As already made clear, an adjectival clause does the work of an adjective in a sentence. It always qualifies a noun or a pronoun.

Note the following sentences :

1. This is the book which *I wanted to borrow*.

2. This is the place where *he was born*.

3. Those *who work hard* never fail.

4. The time *when he will arrive* is not known.

In the above sentences, the italicised groups of words are adjectival clauses, qualifying the nouns and pronouns, book, place, those, the time.

1. It may be noted that an adjective clause is introduced by a relative pronoun such as :

Which, whom, who, or relative adverbs, as : why, when, where.

2. Sometimes relative pronouns or relative adverbs introducing adjective clauses are omitted, as :

(a) This is the boy, I wanted to see.

(b) The reason, he failed is that he never worked.

In sentence (a) above the relative pronoun "whom" after 'boy' has been omitted and in the second sentence, the relative adverb 'why' after 'reason' has been omitted.

3. Sometimes 'but' also introduces an adjective clause, as :

There was none but wept.

(Who did not weep)

"but wept" adjective clause.

4. Sometimes 'than' also introduces an adjective clause, as :

The class elected Ram as their monitor than whom no better boy was available.

EXERCISE-XX

Pick out the adjectival clauses in the following sentences stating which noun or pronoun they qualify :

1. The reason why he came late is not known.

2. All that glitters is not gold.

3. Those who live in glass houses should not throw stones at others.

4. Uneasy lies the head that wears the crown.

5. There was none who wept.

6. This is the house where he lived.

7. God helps those who help themselves.

8. I do not like such boys as speak ill of others.

9. Whom the god loves die young.

10. This is the pen my friend gave me.

III. ADVERBIAL CLAUSES

As already explained an adverbial clause does the work of an adverb in a sentence and as such it may modify a verb an adjective or an adverb of a principal clause.

Adverbial clauses may be divided into the following clauses according to the function they perform in a sentence.

Kinds of Adverbial Clauses

1. Adverbial clauses of time.

2. Adverbial clauses of place.

3. Adverbial clauses of purpose.

4. Adverbial clauses of cause.

5. Adverbial clauses of condition.

6. Adverbial clauses of result.

7. Adverbial clauses of comparison.

8. Adverbial clauses of contrast.

9. Adverbial clauses of extent.

10. Adverbial clauses of Manner.

1. Adverbial clauses of time : These are easy to identify because they are introduced by the subordinate conjunction such as, when, wherever, while, after, before, since, as long as, as soon as, till.

Example : 1. I had reached the school *before* the bell rang.

2. Wait here *till* I come back.

3. As soon as *the bell rang*, we entered our class-room.

The italicised groups of words are adverbial clauses showing time.

2. Adverbial where, clauses showing place : These are introduced by subordinate conjunctions as – wherever, whence, whether.

Example : (a) He is respected *wherever he goes*.

(b) He went back *wherever he came*.

3. Adverbial clauses of purpose : These are introduced by subordinate conjunctions, as : that, in order that, so, that, lest.

Example : He worked hard *lest he should fail*.

In the above sentence, the italicised groups of words are adverbial clauses showing purpose.

4. Adverbial clauses of cause or reason : These are introduced by subordinate conjunction such as : because, since.

Example : (a) As *he was ill*, he could not attend the function.

(b) He came late *so he missed the bus*.

(c) *Since you are my friend*, you should help me.

In the above sentences, the italicised groups of words are adverbial clauses showing reason.

5. Adverbial clauses of condition : These are introduced by subordinate conjunctions, as : If, unless, in case, on the condition that, provided that.

Example : (a) *If it rains*, we shall not go out.

(b) *In case he fails*, he will leave the school.

(c) Unless he runs fast, he will not reach in time.

In the above sentences, the italicised groups of words are adverbial clauses of condition.

6. Adverbial clauses of result or effect : These are introduced by the subordinate conjunctions as : So that, Such that, So and such occurring in the principal clauses while 'that' occurring in subordinate clauses.

Example : 1. Sham worked so hard *that he fell ill*.

2. He is such an able person *that all respect him*.

In the above sentences, the italicised groups of words are adverbial clauses of result and effect.

7. Adverbial clauses of comparison : These are introduced by the subordinate conjunction, as, than, such as, no less than.

Example : He is *abler than his friend*.

He is *an honest as he is wise*.

This field is *as fertile as that one is*.

In the above sentences the italicised groups of words are adverbial clauses of comparison.

8. Adverbial clauses of concession and contrast : These are introduced by the subordinate conjunctions, as though, although, even if, however, whatever.

Example : (a) *Although he is poor* he is honest.

(b) *However fast he may run*, he cannot win the race.

In these sentences, the italicised groups of words are adverbial clauses showing contrast.

9. Adverbial clauses showing manner or extent : These are introduced by the subordinate conjunctions, *as : as though, as if.*

Example : He talked *as if* he were a saint.

It looks *as though* it will rain heavily.

In the above sentences, the *italicised* groups of words are adverbial clauses showing extent or manner.

EXERCISE-XXI

Pick out the adverbial clauses in the following sentences, giving the function of each :

1. As the teacher entered the class, all stood up.
2. However hard you may work, you cannot stand first.
3. No sooner did the thief see the policeman than he took to his heels.
4. The deeper the well, the cooler the water.
5. Although he was ill, he attended the function.
6. I shall stay, wherever you ask me to stay.
7. I shall help you provided you need my help.
8. If you live without work, you live without food.

ANALYSIS OF SENTENCES

As already explained clauses are the component parts of complex and compound sentences and analysis is the process of breaking up a sentence into its component parts. It has been seen that a sentence is composed of clauses which are of three kinds:

- (i) Principal clause.
- (ii) Subordinate clause.
- (iii) Co-ordinate clause.

Analysis of Complex Sentences

Example :

(A) "Anger is the revenge which you take upon yourself for the faults which others commit."

S/No.	Clause	Kinds of Clause	Function	Connective
1.	Anger is the revenge	Principal clause		
2.	Which you take upon yourself for the faults	Adjective clause	Qualifying the noun revenge	Which
3.	Which others Commit	Adjective clause	Qualifying the	Which
		This is a complex sentence		

Example :

(B) "When I entered my house I found that my belongings were missing."

S/No.	Clause	Kinds of Clause	Function	Connective
1.	I found	Principal clause		
2.	That my belongings were missing	Noun clause	Object to the verb "found"	That
3.	When I entered my house	Adverbial clause	Showing time	When

This is a complex sentence

Analysis of compound Sentences

Example :

(C) "The night was dark, it was raining and everybody was keeping in doors."

S/No.	Clause	Kinds of Clause	Function	Connective
1.	The night was dark	Principal clauses		
2.	It was raining hard	Co-ordinate clause	Co-ordinate to clause No. (1)	
3.	Everybody was keeping doors	Co-ordinate clause	Co-ordinate to clause co. (2)	and

It is a compound sentence

MISCELLANEOUS EXERCISE-XXII

Analyse the following sentences into clause giving the function of each clause, stating whether the sentence is complex or compound :

1. I do not know how people find time to hate when life is too short to live.
2. If a thing is worth doing at all, it is worth doing well.
3. A man is known by the company he keeps.
4. Full many a flower is blown to blush unseen and waste its sweetness in the desert air.
5. The students who came late were marked absent.
6. A lamp does not talk but shines.
7. We are told the Socrates, when he was given the cup of poison, continued to talk to his friends who were standing around him, as he drank it.
8. When I asked the woodcutter why he was crying, he told me that he had lost his axe.

Example :

(B) "When I entered my house I found that my belongings were missing."

S/No.	Clause	Kinds of Clause	Function	Connective
1.	I found	Principal clause		
2.	That my belongings were missing	Noun clause	Object to the verb "found"	That
3.	When I entered my house	Adverbial clause	Showing time	When

This is a complex sentence

Analysis of compound Sentences

Example :

(C) "The night was dark, it was raining and everybody was keeping in doors."

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