

Recognizing phrases & dependent clauses

Underline phrases in the following sentences once. Underline dependent clauses twice.

Phrases. Remember, phrases do not have both subject and verb.

Prepositional [*in the house, by the road, near the popcorn bag, around the town*]

Gerund [*Ringin' bells* can be disconcerting, The deer started *eating grass by the road*]

Participial [*Asking tough questions*, the field mouse got nowhere. The children, *lighting the candles*, beamed with glory.

Infinitive [*To speak softly* is fashionable. The boors decided *to shout their glee aloud*]

Dependent

Clauses. Clauses *do* have both subject and verb.

Relative [The president *who wore those stylish shoes* walked daintily to the automobile. They called to the ghost *which haunted the hallway*].

Subordinate [*Before they went haunting*, the ghouls broke their fast. They floated after the students *because they wanted their lunch money*].

Prepositional phrase
1) At our prodding, Steve and Ted admitted that they had discussed our late arrival.

Subordinate clause = adverbial
Subordinate clause = Direct object
2) As the dusk grew steadily darker, they knew that we could have had engine trouble.

Prepositional phrase
3) In fact, we had experienced a near miss at the shoal.

4) But they decided [] we were fine.

← a subordinate clause with a "that" omitted; acting as Direct object

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5) If we were lost, they had decided to find us in the morning.
Subordinate clause = Adverbial
Infinitive phrase w/ modifying prepositional phrase; the infinitive phrase is acting as Direct Object

6) "What are a few bug bites?" asked Ted.
This is a relative clause acting as Direct Object.

7) We reminded them that bear and wolves roamed the woods at the other end of the lake.
Indirect object? Subordinate clause as Direct object? prepositional phrase
Hmm

8) Whenever we raised the issue of bears and wolves, Steve smiled that canine smile of his.
Subordinate clause; adverbial
Prepositional phrase
Prepositional phrase

9) If we were worried about those animals, we should not have stayed out past dark.
Adverbial subordinate clause
Prepositional phrase
Prepositional phrase - tacky

10) (In the dark) (outside the glow) (of the campfire), a twig snapped loudly in the woods.
Four prepositional phrases