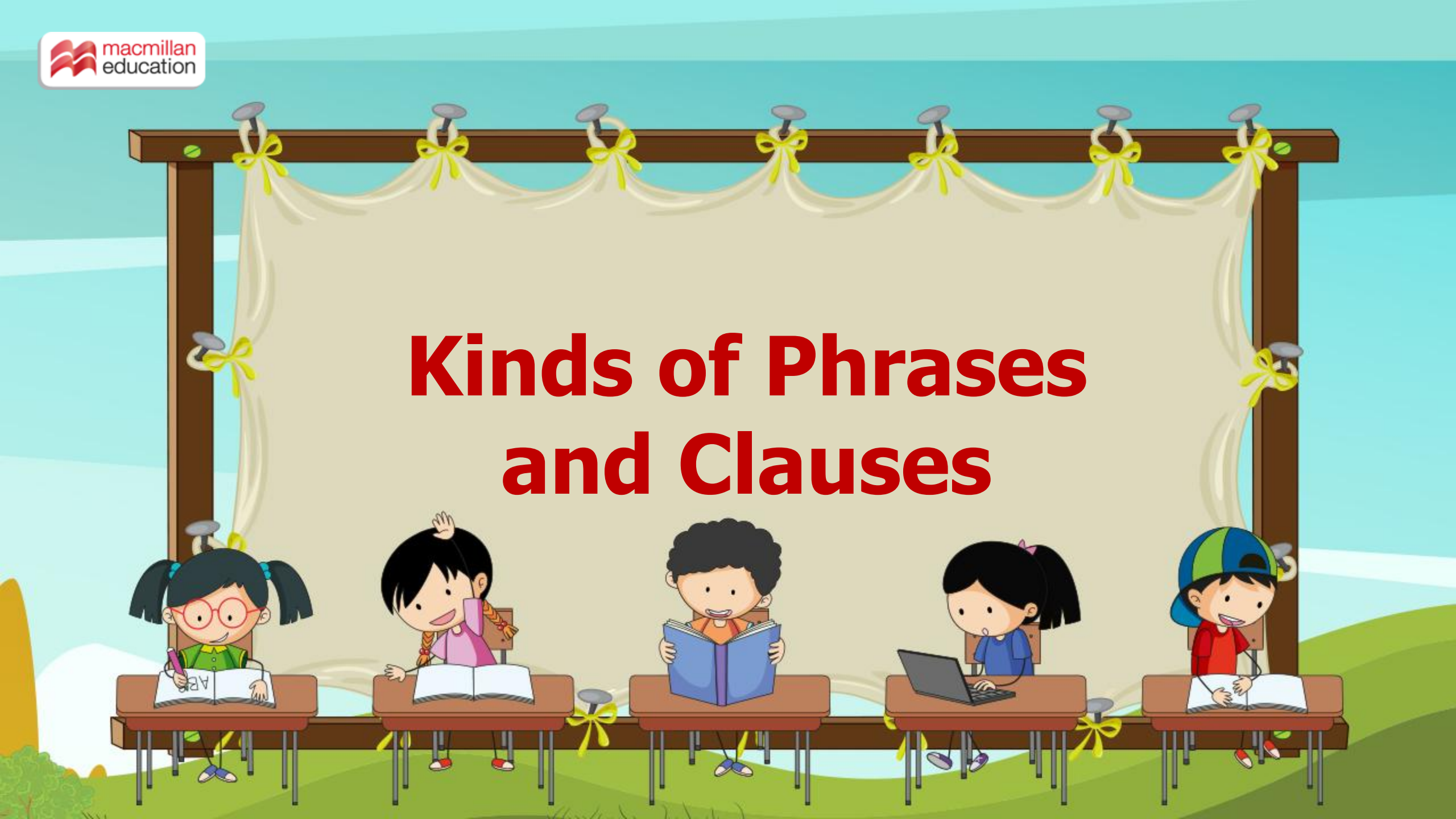
Kinds of Phrases and Clauses



Phrases

Read these sentences.

Hari: I hope the path is not muddy.

Manoj: Paths covered with mud add to the fun!

In the above pair of sentences, first a single word describes the noun, and then a group of words describes the same noun.



- Here, **muddy** qualifies the noun **path**. So, it is an adjective.
- The group of words **covered with mud** also qualifies the noun **path**.
- Since it does the work of an adjective it is called an **adjective phrase**.

Read these sentences.

Pankaj: Harish is talking to his mother now.

Manoj: Is he talking at this very moment?

In the above pair of sentences, first a single word modifies the verb, and then a group of words modifies the same verb.

- Here, **now** tells us when Hari is talking to his mother.

  It modifies the verb **is arriving**. It is an adverb.

- Here, **at this very moment** modifies the verb **is talking** just as the adverb **now** does.

- Therefore, it does the work of an adverb and is called an **adverb phrase**.



Read these sentences.

Hari: We enjoyed playing hide ‘n’ seek in the open space.

Seema: I tried to read my book.

The group of words **playing hide ‘n’ seek** is the object of the verb **enjoyed**. So this group of words does the work of a noun in the sentence.

- In this conversation, **playing hide ‘n’ seek** is therefore a **noun phrase**.
- The group of words **to read my book** is the object of the verb **tried**. So, this group of words does the work of a noun in the sentence.
- Here, **to read my book** is therefore a **noun phrase**.



Read these sentences.

Manoj: Because of the rocky path my shoes are spoilt.

Seema: Why don't you go along with Harish to the cobbler?

A **prepositional phrase** is a group of words placed before a noun or a pronoun to show the relationship between a person or thing in regard to another person or thing in the sentence.

- The group of words **because of** is a **prepositional phrase** as it begins with a preposition, and shows the relationship between **the rocky path** and **my shoes** in the sentence.

- The other **prepositional phrase** is **go along with**.





Remember

- An **adjective phrase** is a group of words in a sentence that describes the noun. It does the work of an adjective.
- An **adverb phrase** is a group of words in a sentence that modifies the verb. It does the work of an adverb.
- A **noun phrase** is a group of words that is the object of the verb in the sentence. It does the work of a noun.
- A **prepositional phrase** is a group of words that begins with a preposition, and links a noun or a pronoun to another noun or pronoun to show their relationship in the sentence.

Verb Phrase

Verb is a very important part of speech as it shows the action performed by the noun or the subject of a sentence.

For example: cry, dance, sleep, eat etc

The baby cried loudly.

She was sleeping when I called.

A **phrase** is a group of words that is used to complete a sentence. It does not have a complete meaning. It does not contain a subject but modifies a noun, adjective or a verb.

For example: in the garden, at the bus stop, under the tree etc

Verb Phrase

- A verb phrase is a group of words that has a verb in it and does the work of a verb.
  For example: The man is walking slowly.
  I like to eat chocolate cake.

The underlined words in the above sentences are **verb phrases**. They modify the verb in the sentence.

- A **verb phrase** always has a main verb.
  For example: The boys played football.
  I won the game.
  My sister likes to read fairy tales.
  Rita brought sandwiches for lunch.
  John danced merrily.



Verb Phrase

- A **verb phrase** can include a helping verb. This helping verb always precedes the main verb. The main verb in such cases is always in the continuous tense.
- Helping verbs include forms of be, such as **am**, **is**, **are**, **was**, **were**, **being** and **been**.

For example:

1. He is singing a song.
2. The girls were shouting loudly.
3. I am going to America for a month.
4. Raju was walking on the road when he met with an accident.
5. We are going to put up a play in the school function.

Verb Phrase

- A **verb phrase** can also have an auxiliary verb and a main verb in the participle form.
- Auxiliary verbs include **has**, **have** and **had**

For example: 1. Atul has taken his dog for a walk.

2. Naina had gone to the park yesterday.
3. The men have completed the work.

- A **verb phrase** can have an auxiliary verb like has, had, have + been and a main verb in the 'ing' form.

For example: 1. It has been raining all night.

2. I have been taking painting lessons since two weeks.
3. The boy had been working hard but he failed.

Verb Phrase

- Sometimes a **verb phrase** can have a modal verb and a main verb.
- Modal verbs are can, could, may, might, must, shall, should, will and would.

For example:
1. I might come to your house today.
2. You must do the homework.
3. Sam will bring the biscuits.
4. She could work harder.

- A **verb phrase** can have a modal verb with a helping verb and a main verb.
- Helping verbs in such cases are has, have, have been, had been.

For example:
1. She will be coming to meet us.
2. He might have gone to see her.
3. I have been waiting for my result.
4. They had been driving for two hours when the car broke down.

Test Yourself

Match the adjective phrase and adverb phrase in Column B with the first part of the sentence in Column A.

Column A	Column B
I like to see a face	made of raw silk.
Seema swam	in a rude manner.
Kamaljeet wore a turban	with a smile on it.
This book has a page	with great speed.
He answered	at this very moment.
She is arriving	with six illustrations.



Match the noun phrase and prepositional phrase in Column B with the first part of the sentence in Column A.

Column A	Column B
I tried	cooking new cuisines?
They scaled the wall	to get the shade right.
Did you enjoy	in spite of difficulties.
It is my ambition	by means of rope ladders.
Raju acted	to win the first prize.
Alisha persevered	according to my instructions.



Match the words in all three columns to form meaningful sentences.

Everybody	has been	watching a movie
We	must have been	come next week
He	were	finished his work
She	laughed	singing all evening
They	could have	at the joke
Jenny	might	run away
Peter and Bob	had	listening to the radio



Clauses

Read these sentences.

Tony: The break bell has rung. Let's go to the field.

Ravi: The athletic team is practising on the race track which is at the far end of the field.

Beena: Let's go there before the bell rings again.

Tony: I hope that our team wins!





Remember

- A clause is a group of words that may form part of a sentence, or it may be a complete sentence in itself.
- It has a subject and predicate of its own.

MAIN/INDEPENDENT CLAUSE

- Every sentence has a main clause.

Example: The track team is practising on the race track.

This is a main clause or an independent clause as it conveys a complete thought and can stand by itself.

SUBORDINATE/DEPENDENT CLAUSE

- A subordinate clause depends on a main clause for its meaning. It is a dependent clause.

Example: which is at the far end of the field.



ADJECTIVE CLAUSE

An adjective clause functions as an adjective in a sentence. It is generally introduced by the word who, whom, whose, which or that. We use who, whom and whose for living beings and which for animals and non-living things. That can be used for both living beings and non-living things.

Example:

The track team is practising on the race track which is at the far end of the field.

In this example, which is at the far end of the field describes the noun ‘court’ in the main clause - The track team is practising on the race track.



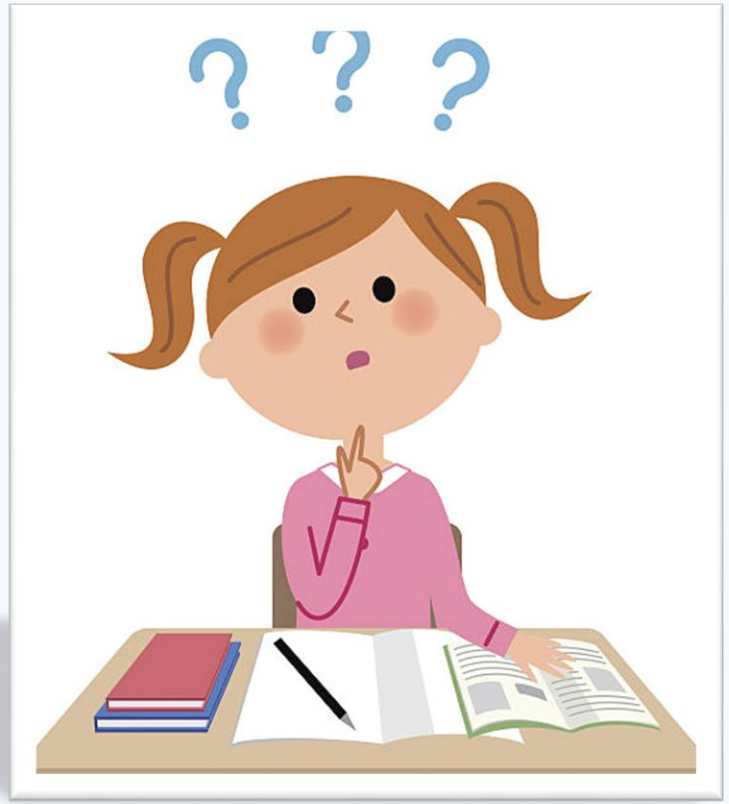
NOUN CLAUSE

A noun clause functions as a noun in a sentence. It can function as the subject of the verb, the object of the verb, the complement of the verb, or the object of a preposition.
A noun clause is introduced by the word that or a question word (such as why, how, what or when) or if/whether.

Example:

I told her that I would be busy tomorrow afternoon!

In this sentence, that I would be busy tomorrow afternoon is the object of the verb ‘told’ in the main clause - I told her.





ADVERB CLAUSE

An adverb clause modifies a verb, an adjective or another adverb and tells us how, where, when, why, how often and to what degree an action takes place.

Example:

Let’s go there before the bell rings again.



Here, before the bell rings again modifies the verb ‘go’ in the main clause - Let’s go there.



ADVERB CLAUSE

TYPES OF ADVERB CLAUSES

1. Adverb Clause of Manner: *as, as if, like*
2. Adverb Clause of Place: *where, wherever, anywhere, everywhere*
3. Adverb Clause of Time: *when, while, as soon as, since, after, before, as, whenever, till, until, no sooner… then, hardly… when, scarcely… when*
4. Adverb Clause of Purpose: *so that, in order to, in order that, lest*
5. Adverb Clause of Effect: *so that, such that*
6. Adverb Clause of Reason: *because, since, as*
7. Adverb Clause of Condition: *if, unless*
8. Adverb Clause of Contrast: *although, even though, though, while, even if*

Say which is the subordinate clause in each sentence. State whether the clause is a noun clause, an adverb clause or an adjective clause.

1. We know that our business idea will be chosen.

2. Kiran talked to me there until I reached home.

3. He is the person who met us us yesterday.

4. She said that she would call me with the details.

5. I believe what he says.

