

المحاضرة الثالثة

المادة: قواعد

الفرقة: الثانية – لغة انجليزية – عام

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SENTENCE CLAUSES AND PHRASES

Sentences can be broken down into smaller units called clauses and phrases.

The main difference between the two is that:

- ❖ clauses have a subject and a predicate whereas phrases do not have a predicate.**

- She was walking *with a friend* who went to my school.
- ❖ Clauses contain both a subject and a predicate, so who went to my school constitutes a clause in the above example. *With a friend* is one example of a *phrase* from the above sentence, since it has no subject and no predicate.
- ❖ Clauses can be either main or subordinate A *main clause* is one which is independent.

A *subordinate clause* depends on the main clause which it often modifies.

Subordinating conjunctions (as, since, because...) or relative pronouns (who, which, that) usually introduce dependent clauses.

- **While I was driving, I noticed the leaves had begun to turn autumn colors.**

The first clause, while I was driving, is a *subordinate clause* introduced by the subordinate conjunction "while. "The clause is subordinate because it cannot stand by itself as a complete sentence. The second clause is the *main clause*. By itself, I noticed the leaves had begun to turn autumn colors can be a whole sentence.

Sentences, clauses and phrases

A sentence can be defined as a group of words that consists of a subject and verb and perhaps the elements following the verb. If the elements are important to the structure of the sentence they will be named as complement; if they are optional they are called adjuncts.

1. The last train has arrived (does not have a complement or adjunct)
2. Your uncle left a message. (has a complement)
3. John helped Bill in Central Park. (has an adjunct)

A clause on the other hand is regarded as a unit of grammatical organization smaller than the sentence but larger than phrases, words, or morphemes. The following example contains

two clauses the first one represents the independent (or superordinate) while the second one is the dependent (or subordinate).

4. [The girl arrived] [after the rain started]

A phrase is a group of words that functions in a sentence as a single Part of speech. A phrase does not have a subject or a verb so it cannot stand alone as an independent unit. It can function only as a part of speech.

5. Marci has a scarf with green stripes.

(In this example Marci is a phrase consisting of a single word and functioning as the subject of the sentence)

6. Screaming loudly the baby was disconsolate

(Here the phrase screaming loudly is composed of two words and functioned as a pre-modifier for the subject of the sentence the baby)

Basic Definitions of Phrases

Linguists define a phrase as a sequence of words that functions as a constituent within a simple clause. This means that phrases are smaller than clauses. More accurately, simple clauses include phrases while simple phrases do not, in general, include phrases. We can represent this definition through the following example:

7. The Postman Pestered the doctor

A Phrase is any syntactic unit that is not a clause but has the function as a whole with a larger construction. In the coming example, the subject is a one-word phrase, "they", and the object is a phrase, "the people in the village" which includes the smaller phrases "in the village" and "the village".

8. They like the people in the village

The last definition of phrase considers it as a group of words forming a unit and united around a head

Features of phrases

In English, phrases are characterized by various characteristics depending on their usage and structure these features are as follows:

1. A phrase can be pronominalized

– She ran [here]

2. It can be coordinated with a phrase of the same type

– She ran [to the shop] and [to the library]

3. we can delete it without affecting the meaning of the structure

– She ran [.....]

4. we can replace it by a wh-element

– [where] did she run?

5. It is mobile and can occur in different slots initial medial and final

– [To the ship] she ran

– She ran [to the shop] quickly

– She ran [to the shop]

6. We can use it as a preform

– He calls marry He calls her (ibid.)

The structure of Phrase

Study the following example:

– Small babies cry

In this example, we find that "babies" functions as the subject of "cry", "small babies" are the subject of "small babies cry". This will make analysis very much complicated for example a single two-word sentence like Babies cry has to be given a phrase structure in which babies counts twice once as a word and then as a phrase.

How to decide that this is a phrase or not?

There are different procedures used to decide whether the sequence of words you may find in a specific text representing a phrase or not these strategies will be associated with the following example:

– I was reading the letter to John.

Now it is worth to deal with the following tests.

1. Test Replacement by it If a group of words can be replaced by the word (it) without affecting the significant meaning then that sequence of words represents a phrase so the previous example will be

– I was reading it to John

2. The movement test (mobility): This test proves that any sequence of words can be moved together then that group of words is a phrase hence we can say:

– The letter to John was being read

3. The replacement test: A phrase including several words can be replaced by a phrase of the same kind containing a single word such as:

- John seems to be very happy with his new car**
- John seems to be happy.**

Types of phrases

There are five phrase types:

Phrase type

Examples

Noun phrase

the young boy

Main word: noun *boy*

Verb phrase

has been stolen

Main word: verb *stolen*

Adjective phrase

very greedy

Main word: adjective *greedy*

Adverb phrase

too quickly

Main word: adverb *quickly*

Prepositional phrase *after the storm*

Main word: preposition *after*