

Intermediate Level II

Function of Phrases and Clauses

Score: /30

Phrases are groups of two or more related words that DO NOT form complete sentences with both a subject and a verb.

For example: "the woman by the sign" → only contains a subject

"will be going" → only contains a verb

Clauses are related groups of words that DO have both a subject and a verb.

For example: "put on your coat" → contains subject and verb

"when you eat breakfast" → contains subject and verb

Activity #1: Identify the underlined words below as either a phrase or a clause.

_____ 1. He moved to California with his family as a teenager.

_____ 2. Poisonous snakes have hollow teeth called fangs.

_____ 3. Fans loved it, but critics and parents condemned Elvis's act.

_____ 4. Vampire bats live in Mexico, Central America, and South America.

_____ 5. At first, the ceremony was broadcast on radio.

_____ 6. To find out, he decided to examine them under a microscope.

_____ 7. Most of his designs are easy to recognize.

_____ 8. Earhart was determined to learn how to fly.

_____ 9. They launched the first satellite to orbit Earth.

_____ 10. We have teeth to help us chew.



Name: _____

Phrases have a variety of different functions.

A noun phrase functions as a noun in a sentence: "the tiny baby"

A verb phrase is the main group of verbs in a sentence: "will go shopping"

A prepositional phrase contains a preposition and an object: "on the table"

Activity #2: Identify the underlined phrases in the sentences below as one of the following: noun, verb or prepositional phrase.

_____ 1. He was commissioned to build important projects around the world.

_____ 2. At first, the Russians seemed to be winning.

_____ 3. De Mestral discovered that each burr was covered in thin strands.

_____ 4. Elvis's first attempts failed, but the young singer wouldn't give up.

_____ 5. A tremendous amount of water falls into the gorge.

_____ 6. He struggled to pick the stubborn seeds from his dog's coat.

_____ 7. The journey to the moon captured the hearts of Americans.

Activity #3: Write your own sentences containing the different types of phrases.

1. noun phrase: _____

2. verb phrase: _____

3. prepositional phrase: _____





Name: _____

There are two types of **clauses**.

An independent clause expresses a complete thought that could serve as a sentence.

For example: The team waited.

A subordinate clause does not express a complete thought, so it can't serve as a complete sentence. For example: her braids fell

Activity #4: Identify the clauses below as independent or subordinate clauses.

_____ 1. the Brazilian side of the falls offers

_____ 2. bats are unique

_____ 3. is the great white shark

_____ 4. what Earhart really wanted to do

_____ 5. Frank Gehry is an architect

_____ 6. the annoying task made him

_____ 7. many snakes have teeth

_____ 8. it continues to be a great source of pride

_____ 9. President John. F. Kennedy declared

_____ 10. sometimes feed on humans

