

Clauses, Phrases, and Sentences

Clause

A clause is a group of words that contains a subject and a verb. There two types of clauses: independent and dependent clause.

Independent Clause

An independent clause is a complete idea and can stand alone as a sentence.

Dependent Clause (Subordinate Clause)

An dependent clause is not a complete idea, it must be attached to an independent clause to become one.

Sentence

A sentence is a set of words that is complete in itself, typically containing a subject and a predicate (a predicate is the verbal clause which consists of a verb and its modifiers). There are four types of sentences: simple sentence, compound sentence, complex sentence, compound-complex sentence.

Simple Sentence

A simple sentence consists of **one independent clause**.

Example:

The number of UK Schools of Pharmacy is set to double.

Compound Sentence

A compound sentence consists at least of **two independent clauses** which can be joined together using a comma, semicolon (;), or comma and a coordinating conjunction.

Example:

Cocaine is a very effective local anaesthetic, **but** due to a profound stimulant action on the CNS it has been replaced in most routine procedures with synthetic, non-addictive, analogues such as lidocaine (lignocaine), prilocaine, procaine, etc.

Complex Sentence

A complex sentence consists of at least **one independent clause** and **one dependent clause**. The two clauses can be joined together with a subordinating conjunction. When the dependent clause (subordinate clause) comes at first, we put a comma after it.

Example:

A drug is not considered to be in the body **until** it has been absorbed across the gut wall and into the bloodstream.

Compound-complex Sentence

A compound-complex sentence consists of at least **two independent clauses** and **one dependent clause**.

Example:

Normally, compounds that contain a nitrogen atom are basic (ammonia, amines, heterocycles, etc.), **but** these compounds are only basic **if** the lone pair of electrons on the nitrogen is available for reaction with H^+ ions to form salts.

Phrase

A phrase is a group of words that stand together as a single grammatical unit, typically as a part of a clause or a sentence. There are eight types of phrases: noun phrase, verb phrase, gerund phrase, infinitive phrase, appositive phrase, participial phrase, prepositional phrase, absolute phrase. (The phrase is between the square brackets)

Noun phrase: it consists of a noun and all its modifiers.

Eg: [Pharmaceutical chemistry]
 modifier **noun**

Verb phrase: it consists of a verb and all its modifiers.

Eg: Proteins [**are composed** of about 20 different amino acids.]
 verb **modifiers**

Gerund phrase: it is a noun phrase starting with a gerund.

Eg: [**Dissolving** salt in water], the compound dissociates completely to
 gerund
give solvated anions and cations.

Infinitive phrase: it starts with an infinitive verb.

Eg: [**To understand** anything about a drug], it requires a thorough and
 infinitive verb

comprehensive understanding of the chemical structure of the drug and how this structure influences the properties and behaviour of the drug in the body.

Appositive phrase: it restates, defines a noun, and gives extra information to the reader. It consists of one or more words. We find the appositive phrase between brackets, or commas, or dashes when it is unessential. No punctuation is used when the phrase is essential.

Eg: The Swedish chemist **Svante August Arrhenius** suggested that
essential appositive phrase
solutions that conduct electricity (**so-called electrolytes**) do so
unessential appositive phrase
because they dissociate into charged species called ions.

Participial phrase: it starts with a past participial.

Eg: [Eradicated by medicines], diseases can no longer stand.
Past participial

Prepositional phrase: it starts with a preposition and can act as a noun, adjective, or adverb.

Eg: [In cell membranes], cholesterol increases membrane rigidity
preposition
and is essential for maintaining the integrity of the membrane.

Absolute phrase: it has a subject but not an action verb.

Eg: The high surface area of the small intestine is achieved due to its convoluted folded structure, which is increased further by the presence of *microvilli*, [small tube-like structure], [like tiny hairs].

NB: The teacher welcomes questions for further clarification. Send your questions to the following e-mail: koukiro2@gmail.com