

KS2 English Quiz - Clauses and Phrases (Questions)

This KS2 English quiz looks at clauses and phrases. Sentences are made up of collections of words called 'clauses' and 'phrases'. It is easy to recognise a clause because it could be a complete sentence on its own. This sentence is a clause, too: 'He ran.' The subject is 'he' and the verb is 'ran'. In this sentence, 'he ran' is still a clause: 'Although exhausted, he ran.' Phrases have no subject / verb pair. 'Although exhausted' is a phrase.

Understanding clauses and phrases helps you use commas properly. Our next two quizzes are all about commas, so it would be a good idea to play this quiz first.

Challenge yourself with this English quiz on the subject.

1. Find the clause in the sentence. Remember, a clause could make a complete sentence on its own. Before lunch, I will finish reading my book.



- Before lunch
- Before lunch, I will
- I will finish reading my book
- finish reading my book

2. Find the clause in the sentence. Remember, a clause could make a complete sentence on its own. She walked up the stairs, laughing softly.



- She walked up the stairs
- walked up
- walked up the stairs
- laughing softly

3. Find the clause in the sentence. Remember, a clause could make a complete sentence on its own. The sun was shining on the pitch, blinding the team.



- The sun was shining on the pitch
- was shining on the pitch
- shining on the pitch, blinding
- blinding the team

4. Find the clause in the sentence. Remember, a clause could make a complete sentence on its own. Despite being dark and gloomy, the weather made him happy.



- Despite being
- Despite being dark and gloomy
- dark and gloomy, the weather
- the weather made him happy

5. Find the clause in the sentence. Remember, a clause could make a complete sentence on its own.
The dog, not altogether unsurprisingly, hates having a bath.



- The dog
- not altogether unsurprisingly
- hates having a bath
- The dog hates having a bath

6. Find the clause in the sentence. Remember, a clause could make a complete sentence on its own.
Edna, my Nan's best friend, asked me if I like gooseberries.



- Edna
- my Nan's best friend
- Edna asked me if I like gooseberries
- asked me if I like gooseberries

7. Find the clause in the sentence. Remember, a clause could make a complete sentence on its own.
Over the fields and through the woods, the deer ran.



- Over the fields
- through the woods
- Over the fields and through the woods
- the deer ran

8. Find the clause in the sentence. Remember, a clause could make a complete sentence on its own.
Tired of practising, she quietly closed the lid of the piano.



- Tired of practising
- of practising
- of practising, she quietly closed
- she quietly closed the lid of the piano

9. Find the clause in the sentence. Remember, a clause could make a complete sentence on its own.
The goalkeeper eyed the striker, leaning forward intently.



- The goalkeeper
- The goalkeeper eyed the striker
- leaning forward
- leaning forward intently

10. Find the clause in the sentence. Remember, a clause could make a complete sentence on its own.
Coming home, I could smell the delicious scent of spaghetti bolognese, my favourite meal.



- Coming home
- Coming home, I could smell
- I could smell the delicious scent of spaghetti bolognese
- my favourite meal

KS2 English Quiz - Clauses and Phrases (Answers)

1. Find the clause in the sentence. Remember, a clause could make a complete sentence on its own.
Before lunch, I will finish reading my book.



- Before lunch
- Before lunch, I will
- I will finish reading my book
- finish reading my book

'Before lunch' is a phrase - it does not include a subject/verb pairing.

2. Find the clause in the sentence. Remember, a clause could make a complete sentence on its own.
She walked up the stairs, laughing softly.



- She walked up the stairs
- walked up
- walked up the stairs
- laughing softly

'She' is the subject and 'walked' is the verb.

3. Find the clause in the sentence. Remember, a clause could make a complete sentence on its own.
The sun was shining on the pitch, blinding the team.



- The sun was shining on the pitch
- was shining on the pitch
- shining on the pitch, blinding
- blinding the team

'The sun' is the subject and 'was shining' is the verb.

4. Find the clause in the sentence. Remember, a clause could make a complete sentence on its own.
Despite being dark and gloomy, the weather made him happy.



- Despite being
- Despite being dark and gloomy
- dark and gloomy, the weather
- the weather made him happy

'The weather' is the subject and 'made' is its verb.

5. Find the clause in the sentence. Remember, a clause could make a complete sentence on its own. The dog, not altogether unsurprisingly, hates having a bath.



- The dog
- not altogether unsurprisingly
- hates having a bath
- The dog hates having a bath

Often clauses are interrupted by phrases. When a phrase such as 'not altogether unsurprisingly' is used to add extra information, it needs a pair of commas to separate it from the main clause.

7. Find the clause in the sentence. Remember, a clause could make a complete sentence on its own. Over the fields and through the woods, the deer ran.



- Over the fields
- through the woods
- Over the fields and through the woods
- the deer ran

Although it is made up of only three words, 'the deer ran' is the clause of this sentence.

6. Find the clause in the sentence. Remember, a clause could make a complete sentence on its own. Edna, my Nan's best friend, asked me if I like gooseberries.



- Edna
- my Nan's best friend
- Edna asked me if I like gooseberries
- asked me if I like gooseberries

The phrase 'my Nan's best friend' is set off from the rest of the sentence with a pair of commas.

8. Find the clause in the sentence. Remember, a clause could make a complete sentence on its own. Tired of practising, she quietly closed the lid of the piano.



- Tired of practising
- of practising
- of practising, she quietly closed
- she quietly closed the lid of the piano

Subject / verb = 'she closed'. 'Tired of practising' is a phrase.

9. Find the clause in the sentence. Remember, a clause could make a complete sentence on its own. The goalkeeper eyed the striker, leaning forward intently.



- The goalkeeper
- The goalkeeper eyed the striker
- leaning forward
- leaning forward intently

Subject / verb = 'The goalkeeper eyed'.

10. Find the clause in the sentence. Remember, a clause could make a complete sentence on its own. Coming home, I could smell the delicious scent of spaghetti bolognese, my favourite meal.



- Coming home
- Coming home, I could smell
- I could smell the delicious scent of spaghetti bolognese
- my favourite meal

'Coming home' and 'my favourite meal' are both phrases.