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| **Grammar Masters: Teacher’s Notes****Topic: Clauses and Phrases** |
| **Phrases**A phrase is a group of words that could be replaced by a single part of speech, for example, a noun.*The big, brown dog had a very loud bark.*The phrase **big, brown dog** could be replaced by the noun dog.By using phrases rather than simple nouns or verbs, it makes writing more descriptive.A phrase is defined as ‘a group of related words that lacks both subject and verb’.A phrase is a part of a sentence. It is a group of words (within a sentence) that does not contain both subject and verb, and does not express a complete idea.Example: *He is standing* ***near a wall****.*The part of the above sentence “near a wall” is a phrase because it does not contain subject and verb, and does not express a complete idea. A phrase does not include both subject and verb at a same time and does not make a complete sense, hence a phrase cannot stand as a sentence on its own. **Clauses**A **clause** is a collection of words that includes a subject and a verb. Some sentences can be broken up into smaller sentences. These simple sentences are called clauses.***She ran down the road*** *but* ***he chose to walk****.*This sentence is made up of **two** clauses, both of which could work on their own as simple sentences.You can join clauses together using **conjunctions** to make more interesting sentences that are much easier to read than lots of short sentences.*Amy took the dog for a walk. It got very dirty.**Amy took the dog for a walk* ***and*** *it got very dirty.**The dog got very dirty* ***when*** *Amy took it for a walk.*There are two major types of clauses **main (or independent) clause** and **subordinate (or dependent) clause**.*He is buying a shirt which looks very nice.* The above sentence has two clauses “He is buying a shirt” and “which looks very nice”. The clause “He is buying a shirt” expresses a complete thought and can alone stand as a sentence. Such a clause is called **main or independent clause.**While the clause “which looks very nice” does not express a complete thought and can’t stand as a sentence. It depends on another clause (main clause) to express complete idea. Such a clause is called **subordinate or dependent clause.****Main or Independent Clause**Main (or independent) clause is a clause that expresses a complete thought and can stand as a sentence.**Subordinate or dependent Clause**Subordinate (or independent) clause is a clause which does not express complete thought and depends on another clause (main clause) to express complete thought. Subordinate clause does not express complete idea and can’t stand as a sentence. A sentence having a subordinate clause must have a main clause.  |

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