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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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