Name: Date: Period:

**Clauses Vs. Phrases (An Overview)**

**Definitions to Know:**

* **Clause**: A group of words that contains a verb and either forms part of a sentence or is a complete sentence in itself. For example:
* **Phrase**: A small group of words that forms a meaningful unit within a clause
* **Predicate**: the part of a sentence (or clause) which tells us what the subject does or is. To put it another way, the predicate is everything that is not the subject.
  + The boy down the street is a bully
  + He stole my lunch money last week
* **Subject**: generally the person or thing that the sentence is about, often the person or thing that performs the action of a verb. For example:
  + The restaurant was packed.
  + He was eating a sandwich.
* **Object**: The person or thing affected by a verb, for example:
  + He was eating a sandwich.
  + She loves animals

**Phrases and Clauses—what’s the difference?**

There are many different types of phrases and clauses. The first step to identifying the different types, though, is to understand the difference between a phrase and a clause.

**Phrases**

A phrase is a related group of words. The words work together as a "unit," but they do \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ have a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Examples of Phrases**

1. the boy on the bus (noun phrase)

2. will be running (verb phrase)

3. in the kitchen (prepositional phrase)

4. very quickly (adverb phrase)

5. Martha and Jan (noun phrase)

**Clauses**

A clause is a group of words that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ have \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Some clauses are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, meaning that they express a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ thought. An \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ clause is the same as a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ sentence. Some clauses are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, meaning that they \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ stand alone. They do have a subject and a verb, but they do **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** express a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ thought. Another word for dependent is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Examples of Clauses**

1. When I get home (dependent or subordinate clause)

2. The lights are not on. (independent clause)

3. When you wake up (dependent or subordinate clause)

4. Put it on the shelf. (independent clause-understood subject "you)

5. Since it fell on the floor (dependent or subordinate clause)

Practice telling the difference:

Below, consider the following groups of words and write whether each is a phrase or clause

1. Into the dark
2. Follow me!
3. After I eat my breakfast
4. Grandmom and Grandpa
5. Extremely cautious
6. Won’t be asking
7. Just around the bend
8. The car is not running