

Phrase

A group of words that work together.

e.g. **a big dog** **five minutes ago**

A phrase doesn't make complete sense on its own. As it doesn't have a verb, it can't be a complete sentence.

Clause

A group of words that work together and include a verb.

e.g. **the boy won the race**

There are two kinds of clauses (see below)

Main clause

A clause that makes complete sense on its own.

e.g. **she bought a new dress**

A main clause can be a sentence on its own.

Subordinate clause

A clause that doesn't make sense on its own – it needs to be joined onto a main clause.

e.g. **when she went shopping**

A subordinate clause cannot be a sentence on its own.

Simple sentence

This is made up from just one clause.

e.g. **It was late.**

Compound sentence

This is made up from two or more **main** clauses. These clauses can be joined using 'and', 'but' or 'so'.

e.g. **It was late but I wasn't tired.**

Both the clauses are equally important.

Complex sentence

This is made up from a **main clause** and one or more **subordinate clauses**.

e.g. **The man limped because his leg hurt.**

Rearranging complex sentences

Clauses can appear in different positions in complex sentences.

e.g. **She took her dog with her wherever she went.**

Wherever she went she took her dog with her.

Rose, who was a greedy girl, ate five cakes.

Subordinate clauses can take on the job of a noun, an adjective or an adverb.

Connectives

Connective is the name for any word that links clauses or sentences together. There are two main groups of connectives:

Conjunctions and **Connecting Adverbs**

Conjunctions

Conjunctions are words that are used to link clauses **within** a sentence.

e.g. **but** **if**

There are two main kinds:

Co-ordinating conjunctions

Link two main clauses to make compound sentences.

e.g. **and, but, or, so**

I was angry but I didn't say anything.

Subordinating conjunctions

go at the start of a subordinate clause so they work to link the subordinating clause to the main clause.

e.g. **when, while, before, after, since, until, if, because, although, that**

We were hungry when we got home.

Connecting adverbs

Connecting adverbs link the ideas in two sentences together but the two sentences still remain separate. Connecting adverbs link ideas in several different ways.

Addition – **also, furthermore, moreover**

Opposition – **however, nevertheless, on the other hand**

Reinforcing – **besides, anyway, after all**

Explaining – **for example, in other words, that is to say**

Listing – **first(ly), first of all, finally**

Indicating result – **therefore, consequently, as a result**

Indicating time – **just then, meanwhile, later**

Commas are often used to mark off connecting adverbs.

e.g. **I was angry. However, I didn't say anything.**