

Phrases and Clauses

Question 1 .



Keeping her GPA high, Keisha goes to the school's math lab every night to study trigonometry with her classmates.

What is infinitive in the sentence above?

- ☐ A. Keeping her GPA high
- ☐ B. to the school's math lab
- ☐ C. with her classmates
- ☐ D. to study trigonometry

Question 2 .



With his hunched back and psycho stare, Stewart sat down, nervously ate his popcorn, and watched the movie.

Which word in the sentence is a participle?

- ☐ A. watched
- ☐ B. ate
- ☐ C. sat
- ☐ D. hunched

Question 3 .



The nerds, geeks, and dweebs will be studying in the library all week.

The underlined word is a part of which type of phrase?

- ☐ A. a gerund phrase
- ☐ B. a participle phrase
- ☐ C. a verb phrase
- ☐ D. an infinitive phrase

Question 4 .

What change should be made to the sentence below?

Whenever the weather was bad Vinny's coaches made the team lift weights instead of practicing outside.

- ☐ A. add a comma after *weights*
- ☐ B. add a comma after *weather*
- ☐ C. add a comma after *instead*
- ☐ D. add a comma after *bad*

Question 5 .

How are the following sentences **best** combined?

The teacher took her class outside. Whenever it was sunny and warm.

- ☐ A. Whenever it was sunny and warm, so the teacher took her class outside.
- ☐ B. The teacher took her class outside, and whenever it was sunny and warm.
- ☐ C. The teacher took her class outside whenever it was sunny and warm.
- ☐ D. Whenever it was sunny and warm; the teacher took her class outside.

Question 6 .

Which sentence contains a participle?

- ☐ A. Jeremiah will be finished with all of his exams next Wednesday.
- ☐ B. Martha thought about buying her boyfriend a singing fish plaque.
- ☐ C. During Patrick's drivers education class, he ran into a utility pole.
- ☐ D. If Auburn doesn't beat Alabama this year, Dad will be depressed.

Question 7 .

What change should be made to the sentence below?

Luis turned eighteen in September so he was able to vote in the last election.

- ☐ A. add a semicolon after *eighteen*
- ☐ B. add a semicolon after *able*
- ☐ C. add a comma after *vote*
- ☐ D. add a comma after *September*

Question 8 .

What change should be made to the sentence below?

Run as fast as he could, Derek tried to catch the bus so that he would not be late.

- ☐ A. change *so that* to a semicolon
- ☐ B. add a comma after *bus*
- ☐ C. remove the comma after *could*
- ☐ D. change *Run* to *Running*

Question 9 .

The clouds heavy with rain began to sprinkle gently upon the houses lying still in the dark.

What is the participle in the sentence above?

- ☐ A. gently
- ☐ B. upon
- ☐ C. lying
- ☐ D. heavy

Question 10 .

How should the sentence below be correctly written?

Since he hurt his ankle in the last game, but Jimmy hasn't been able to participate in soccer practice.

- ☐ A. remove comma after *game*
- ☐ B. change *Since* to *Yet*
- ☐ C. add comma after *participate*
- ☐ D. remove the word *but*

Answers

1. D
2. D
3. C
4. D
5. C
6. B
7. D
8. D
9. C
10. D

Explanations

1. Infinitives are verbals signaled by "to" and used as a noun, an adjective, or an adverb. In this case, the infinitive phrase "to study trigonometry" is used as an adverb modifying the verb "goes."
2. Participles are verb forms that function as adjectives. In this sentence, **hunched** is an adjective that modifies the noun "back."
3. A verb phrase is made up of auxiliary verbs (helping verbs) and main verbs. In this sentence, the helping verb is "will be," and the main verb is "studying."
4. In this sentence, "whenever the weather was bad" is a subordinate clause. The subordinate clause is placed before the main clause, so there needs to be a comma to separate them. There should be a comma after "bad" to make the sentence correct.
5. "Whenever it was sunny and warm" is a subordinate clause. It cannot stand alone, so the main clause "The teacher took her class outside" is necessary. When you combine a main clause and a subordinate clause, no comma is needed if you put the main clause first. This sentence follows that rule: **main clause + subordinate clause**.
6. Participles are verb forms that function as adjectives. In this sentence, "singing" is an adjective that modifies the noun "fish."
7. In this sentence, two main clauses are connected through the conjunction "so." There should be a comma after "September" in order to follow the compound sentence rule: **main clause + comma + conjunction + main clause**. The word "so" could also be replaced by a semicolon to make the sentence correct.
8. Participial phrases are phrases that start with a participle. A participle is a verbal that ends in -ing or -ed to be used as an adjective. In this sentence, the phrase should be "running as fast as he could" because it is a participial phrase that modifies Derek. The rest of the sentence is correct because "so that he would not be late" is a subordinate clause that comes after a main clause.
9. Participles are verb forms, ending with *-ing* or *-ed*, that function as adjectives. In this sentence, **lying** is an adjective that modifies the noun "houses."
10. In this sentence, the subordinate clause comes first: "Since he hurt his ankle in the last game." When combining a subordinate clause and a main clause in a sentence, the conjunction is in the subordinate clause—"since." There is no need for a second conjunction—"but"— so that needs to be removed to make the sentence correct.