

Phrases and Clauses

Question 1 .

Directions: Select the correct text in the passage.

Which is the infinitive phrase in the passage?

The Samurai

The Samurai was a class of warriors **that existed in Japan until around the late 1800s**. Initially, the Samurai warriors emerged **to protect the wealthy land owners in Japan**. Wearing heavy armor and armed with swords, the Samurai quickly gained a fearsome reputation. They grew so powerful that for some centuries, **the Samurai held political and military power over the islands of Japan**. Staying true to the way of the warrior, the Samurai believed in honor and service to their master. Although the Samurai no longer exist, **their culture and memory stay alive in Japan**.

Question 2 .

The Tasmanian Wolf

(1) The Tasmanian wolf or Tasmanian tiger as it was called in Australia, was neither a wolf nor a tiger, but an animal that looked like a hybrid of several different species. (2) People have not spotted this animal for over fifty years, and it is believed that it is now extinct. (3) The animal had a head like a wolf, a tail like a dog, stripes like a tiger, and a pouch like a kangaroo. (4) Scientists now refer to it as the thylacine. (5) Tasmanian wolves were about one meter long, slightly larger than a fox. (6) During the day they would hide in secluded areas, such as logs, but after dark they would step out to hunt often in small packs. (7) Kangaroos, wallabies, and small birds and animals were their primary prey. (8) At one time there were a large number of Tasmanian wolves predominantly found in Australia, but people hunted them down because they at times killed chickens and sheep.

Sentence 1 has a non-restrictive appositive. Which sentence shows the correct way to punctuate sentence 1?

- ☐ A. The Tasmanian wolf, or Tasmanian tiger as it was called in Australia, was neither a wolf nor a tiger, but an animal that looked like a hybrid of several different species.
- ☐ B. The Tasmanian wolf, or Tasmanian tiger as it was called in Australia, was neither a wolf nor a tiger, but an animal that looked like a hybrid, of several different species.
- ☐ C. The Tasmanian wolf, or Tasmanian tiger as it was called in Australia was neither a wolf nor a tiger but an animal that looked like a hybrid of several different species.
- ☐ D. The Tasmanian wolf or Tasmanian tiger as it was called in Australia was neither a wolf nor a tiger, but an animal that looked like a hybrid of several different species.

Question 3 .

Which of the following is a main clause?

- ☐ A. After the hurricane subsided
- ☐ B. Before he graduates
- ☐ C. As the semester's end draws near
- ☐ D. Josh ate pumpkin pie

Question 4 .

The angry wolf encountered a house made out of straw that he was able to blow down in one deep breath.

Look at the sentence above. Which of the following group of words is an adjectival phrase?

- ☐ A. encountered a house
- ☐ B. was able to blow down
- ☐ C. in one deep breath
- ☐ D. made out of straw

Question 5 .

What kind of clause is underlined in the sentence below?

Do you know the generals who led the Union during the Civil War?

- ☐ A. a noun clause
- ☐ B. an independent clause
- ☐ C. a relative clause
- ☐ D. an adverbial clause

Question 6 .

A few minutes ago, the woman with long hair purchased the last two tickets for Friday night's performance of the musical *Mamma Mia*.

Which of the following is a noun phrase in the sentence above?

- ☐ A. purchased the last two tickets
- ☐ B. the woman with long hair
- ☐ C. of the musical *Mamma Mia*.
- ☐ D. A few minutes ago

Question 7 .

Extinction

Extinction occurs when all the members of a species completely die out. Both human activity and natural causes can lead to the extinction of a species.

Human activity is a major cause of recent extinction. As humans multiply, they often harm or destroy the habitats of other animals, which can lead to extinction. Hunting animals for food is also a practice that has led to the extinction of some animals.

Natural causes, such as competition, predation, and climate change, can cause a species to become extinct over a long period of time. Other types of natural disasters include events such as an asteroid strike or a flood. These types of natural causes can have an immediate effect.

Directions: Drag the tiles to the correct boxes to complete the pairs.

Match the phrases and clauses from the passage to their correct classification.

to become extinct

Extinction occurs

to the extinction

Hunting animals for food

As humans multiply

Infinitive phrase

Independent clause

Gerund phrase

Prepositional phrase

Dependent clause

Question 8 .

Which of the following is a subordinate clause?

- ☐ A. Dogs bark loudly throughout the night
- ☐ B. If he gets back from the store in time
- ☐ C. We will have ice cream for dessert
- ☐ D. Babies need a lot of care and attention

Question 9 .

Which of the following adds a main clause to the subordinate clause below?

Unless the weather is uncooperative tomorrow or someone gets sick

- ☐ A. Unless the weather is uncooperative tomorrow or someone gets sick, we are hiking to the top of Vernal Falls.
- ☐ B. Unless the weather is uncooperative tomorrow or someone gets sick, excited about hiking to the top of Vernal Falls.
- ☐ C. Unless the weather is uncooperative tomorrow or someone gets sick or too tired or loses a shoe or some equipment.
- ☐ D. Unless the weather is uncooperative tomorrow or someone gets sick, excited to hike to the top of Vernal Falls.

Question 10 .

A helicopter hovered over the building for about thirty minutes before it landed.

In the sentence above, what kind of phrase is underlined?

- ☐ A. adjectival
- ☐ B. absolute
- ☐ C. prepositional
- ☐ D. participle

Answers

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

Explanations

1. An infinitive phrase begins with "to" and is followed by a verb. The sentence "to protect the wealthy land owners in Japan" is the infinitive phrase in the passage.
2. Because most appositives are non-restrictive that means they add extra information that is unnecessary for the reader, you should use commas around appositives. However, you should be aware that some appositives are restrictive that means they add information that is absolutely necessary for the reader. Restrictive appositives do not use commas. The added information in this sentence is "Tasmanian tiger as it was called in Australia" and is not necessary. So, it should be set off by commas.
3. A main clause has a subject and a verb and can stand alone. A main clause is a complete thought. "Josh ate" is a complete thought.
4. An **adjectival phrase** is a group of words in a sentence that modifies a noun or a pronoun. In this sentence, the phrase "made out of straw" modifies the noun "house."
5. Relative clauses are dependent clauses that are used to provide additional information without starting a new sentence. A relative clause will begin with a relative pronoun, such as *which*, *that*, or *who*, or a relative adverb, such as *when*, *where*, or *why*. Plus, a relative clause will always function as an adjective by modifying a noun or pronoun. In this sentence, "who" is a relative pronoun that signifies more information will follow and modifies "generals."
6. A **noun phrase** is made up of a noun and its modifiers, including adjectives (small, yellow, quiet), possessive adjectives (my, your, her), adverbs (very, temporarily, quietly), determiners (the, a, an), and prepositional phrases. In this case, the prepositional phrase "with long hair" modifies the noun "woman." So, the noun phrase in this sentence is "the woman with long hair."
7. An **independent clause** is also known as a main clause. It has a subject and a predicate, and it can stand alone as a complete idea. The clause "Extinction occurs" is an independent clause.
 A **dependent clause** has a subject and a predicate, but it cannot stand alone as a complete idea. The clause "As humans multiply" is a dependent clause because it depends on the rest of the sentence for its meaning.
 An **infinitive phrase** consists of the word "to" plus a verb, as well as any objects or modifiers. An infinitive phrase can function as a noun, an adjective, or an adverb. The phrase "to become extinct" is an infinitive phrase.
 A **prepositional phrase** consists of a preposition plus its object and any modifiers. A prepositional phrase functions as either an adjective or an adverb. The phrase "to the extinction" is a prepositional phrase.
 A **gerund phrase** consists of a gerund (an *-ing* form of a verb) and will include any modifiers and/or objects. Gerunds always function as nouns. The phrase "Hunting animals for food" is the subject of the verb "is."
8. A subordinate clause is an incomplete thought that begins with a subordinating conjunction (after, although, as, because, before, etc.) or a relative pronoun (that, which, who, etc.). "If he gets back from the store in time" is an incomplete thought.
9. "Unless the weather is uncooperative tomorrow or someone gets sick" is a subordinate clause. A subordinate clause cannot stand alone and depends on a main clause to give it meaning. A main clause has a subject and verb and is able to stand alone. "We are hiking to the top of Vernal Falls" is the only main clause.
10. Prepositions are used to connect, to explain, and to show the relationship between ideas and things. In the given sentence, "over the building" is a prepositional phrase because it tells readers where the helicopter hovered. Hence this phrase is a prepositional phrase.