

Phrases and Clauses

Question 1 .

Identify the type of phrase in the sentence below.

The students exercised to get in better shape.

- ☐ A. adjectival phrase
- ☐ B. absolute phrase
- ☐ C. noun phrase
- ☐ D. adverbial phrase

Question 2 .

Geoffrey Chaucer

Geoffrey Chaucer is popularly known as the father of English poetry. He lived in an unsettling time, when threats of plague, social revolt, heresy, and war constantly loomed. But his society was also creatively vibrant and increasingly literate. It would be fitting to describe the period as a sort of renaissance for the Middle English language. Prior to Chaucer, literature was almost exclusively written in Latin or Old English.

Even though he is chiefly known for his *Canterbury Tales*, Chaucer was not a professional writer. Finding much detailed information about Chaucer as a person and a poet is rather difficult. He worked as a courtier and a civil servant, and served three kings in the course of a long and varied career. Chaucer was born around 1342 into a merchant family and was placed as a page in the household of one of Edward III's sons by the age of 17. However, his official career is fairly easy to trace.

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

Match the excerpts from the passage with the correct classification.

gerund phrase

independent clause

infinitive phrase

dependent clause

Even though he is chiefly known for his *Canterbury Tales*



to describe the period as a sort of renaissance for the Middle English language



He lived in an unsettling time



Finding much detailed information about Chaucer as a person and a poet



Question 3 .

Identify the type of clause or phrase in the sentence below.

Before people are allowed to go into the building and take their seats, they must go through the security check at the front entrance.

- ☐ A. main clause
- ☐ B. gerund phrase
- ☐ C. participial phrase
- ☐ D. subordinate clause

Question 4 .

Identify the type of clause or phrase in the sentence below.

Mary believes that running on a treadmill is a waste of time while jogging outdoors feels more natural.

- ☐ A. main clause
- ☐ B. participial phrase
- ☐ C. subordinate clause
- ☐ D. gerund phrase

Question 5 .

Identify the type of clause or phrase in the sentence below.

It is necessary to be aware of one's surroundings when living in such close proximity to the desert since wildlife like snakes and coyotes make their homes in those areas.

- ☐ A. infinitive phrase
- ☐ B. participial phrase
- ☐ C. main clause
- ☐ D. subordinate clause

Question 6 .

Identify the type of clause in the sentence below.

Whether the rain will fully alleviate the drought is yet to be known.

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

Question 7 .

Absolutism**Absolutism**

Absolutism is the political theory that a single ruler or authority has unlimited power. Under such a government, the ruler is not restricted by the will of the people. An absolute monarchy is a type of absolutism. Absolute monarchs ruled by divine right, the doctrine that monarchs derive their right to rule directly from God. By the 17th century, however, many citizens began to embrace new political ideas. As a result, people began revolting against oppressive rulers.

Absolutism in England

In the year 1215, the English issued the Magna Carta in order to restrict the monarch's power. However, most monarchs continued to abuse their power and position. One such abuse occurred in 1637 when King Charles I of England tried to change the Scottish church. In response, the Scots were outraged, so they revolted in an attempt to preserve their identity. By 1714, at the end of the House of Stuart, divine right rule was abolished in England.

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

Match the excerpts from the passage to the correct classification.

when King Charles I of England
tried to change the Scottish
church

revolting against oppressive
rulers

to restrict the monarch's power

Under such a government

so they revolted in an attempt
to preserve their identity

Dependent Clause



Prepositional Phrase



Infinitive Phrase



Independent Clause



Gerund Phrase



Question 8 .

Identify the type of clause or phrase in the sentence below.

To celebrate freedom of speech means sometimes having to tolerate opposing views.

- ☐ A. infinitive phrase
- ☐ B. subordinate clause
- ☐ C. main clause
- ☐ D. participial clause

Question 9 .

Identify the type of clause or phrase in the sentence below.

Since he had missed the deadline for applications, the only course of action left for Brett was reapplying for admission next semester.

- ☐ A. gerund phrase
- ☐ B. subordinate clause
- ☐ C. main clause
- ☐ D. participial phrase

Question 10 .

Identify the type of clause or phrase in the sentence below.

As the fireworks roared and exploded overhead, Brandon couldn't help but be impressed with this year's halftime show.

- ☐ A. participial phrase
- ☐ B. subordinate clause
- ☐ C. gerund phrase
- ☐ D. main clause

Answers

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

Explanations

1. The phrase "to get in better shape" functions as an adverbial phrase within the sentence because it modifies the verb "exercised" and tells *why* the students exercised. "To get in better shape" is also an infinitive phrase.

2. The phrase "to describe the period as a sort of renaissance for the Middle English language" is an infinitive phrase that begins with the infinitive "to describe."
 The clause "He lived in an unsettling time" is an independent clause because it has a subject and a verb and expresses a complete idea.
 The phrase "Finding much detailed information about Chaucer as a person and a poet" is a gerund phrase in which the word "finding" is the gerund, which is a verb that functions as a noun.
 The clause "Even though he is chiefly known for his Canterbury Tales" is a dependent clause because it expresses an incomplete idea, but has a subject and a verb.

3. This is the main clause of the sentence because it is an independent clause that can stand alone, even if you were to remove the introductory clause, "Before people are allowed to go into the building and take their seats."

4. Be careful not to mistake a gerund phrase for a present participial phrase. They are easy to confuse because both gerunds and present participles end in **-ing**. Participles act as adjectives, and gerunds act as nouns. "Running on a treadmill" is a gerund phrase (direct object of the verb **is**).

5. An infinitive phrase uses a verb with the preposition "to" added before the verb. In this case, "to be aware" is the infinitive phrase.

6. In this sentence, "Whether the rain fully alleviates the drought" is a noun clause because it is a dependent clause that functions as a noun in the sentence. This clause is the subject of the sentence, but it cannot stand on its own, which makes it a dependent clause.

7. An **independent clause** is also known as a main clause. The clause "so they revolted in an attempt to preserve their identity" is independent because it expresses a complete idea. A **dependent clause** has a subject and a predicate, but it cannot stand alone as a complete idea. The clause "when King Charles I of England tried to change the Scottish church" is dependent. A **gerund phrase** is the *-ing* form of a verb that functions as a noun. The phrase "revolting against oppressive rulers" is a gerund phrase. It functions as the direct object of the verb "began." An **infinitive phrase** consists of "to" plus a verb, as well as any objects or modifiers. Infinitives function as nouns, adjectives, or adverbs. The phrase "to restrict the monarch's power" is an infinitive phrase. A **prepositional phrase** consists of a preposition and an object (as well as modifiers). Prepositional phrases function as adjectives or as adverbs. The phrase "Under such a government" is a prepositional phrase.

8. An infinitive phrase uses a verb with the preposition "to" added before the verb. In this case, "to celebrate" is the infinitive phrase.

9. Be careful not to mistake a gerund phrase for a present participial phrase. They are easy to confuse because both gerunds and present participles end in **-ing**. Participles act as adjectives, and gerunds act as nouns. "Reapplying for admission next semester" is a gerund phrase (direct object of the verb **was**).

10. This is the main clause of the sentence because it is an independent clause that can stand alone, even if you were to remove the introductory clause, "As the fireworks roared and exploded overhead."