

Identifying Clauses and Phrases

For each question, identify whether it is an independent clause (IC), dependent clause (DC), or phrase (P). For the purposes of the SAT and ACT, a clause has a subject and a verb working together, and a phrase is anything that is not a clause. Independent clauses can be full sentences on their own, while dependent clauses cannot.

1. Mr. and Mrs. Dursley of number four Privet Drive were proud to say that they were perfectly normal
2. They were the last people you'd expect to be involved in anything strange or mysterious
3. Because they just didn't hold with such nonsense
4. Mr. Dursley was the director of a firm called *Grunnings*
5. Which made drills
6. He was a big, beefy man with hardly any neck
7. Although he did have a very large mustache
8. Mrs. Dursley was thin and blond and had nearly twice the usual amount of neck
9. Which came in useful
10. As she spent so much of her time craning over garden fences
11. Spying on the neighbors
12. The Dursleys' greatest fear was that someone would discover their secret

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13. Which was that Mrs. Dursley had a sister

14. In fact, Mrs. Dursley pretended she didn't have a sister

15. Because her sister and her good-for-nothing husband were as unDursleyish as it was possible to be

16. The Dursleys knew that the Potters had a small boy

17. Who they didn't want mixing with their son

18. Because they thought he was weird

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Evaluating Sentence Structure

In each of these sentences, underline independent clauses, double underline dependent clauses, and cross out nonessential phrases.

Example: Even though the boy, ~~who had been running all day~~, was tired, he was ready to get back to work.

1. Not for the first time, an argument had broken out over breakfast at number four Privet Drive because of a loud, hooting noise.
2. After Harry's uncle Vernon, who had a bit of fried egg dangling from his mustache, exchanged dark looks with his wife, he yelled at Harry.
3. Harry tried to argue back, but his words were drowned out by a long, loud belch from the Dursleys' son, Dudley, who then asked for more bacon.
4. Petunia, turning her misty eyes on her massive son, told him that there was more bacon in the frying pan.
5. Although Dudley's bottom was so large that it drooped over either side of the kitchen chair, he turned to Harry and asked him to pass the frying pan.
6. Harry, irritated, told Dudley that he had forgotten to say the magic word.
7. Dudley gasped and fell off his chair with a crash that shook the whole kitchen while Mrs. Dursley gave a small scream and clapped her hands to her mouth.
8. Mr. Dursley jumped to his feet, veins throbbing in his temples, and shouted at Harry to never say the 'M' word in their house again if he didn't want to get thrown out.

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Identifying Sentence Structure Quiz

1. A few days before the opening of the exhibition, as multiple artists attempted to put finishing touches on their works, one of the artists eyed another's painting, that artist was adorning it with flecks of red paint.
A) NO CHANGE
B) painting, which that artist was adorning it
C) painting, which that artist was adorning
D) painting that it was being adorned by that artist
2. About three and a half million people per day ride the subways, I'm sure all of them are wonderful people.
A) NO CHANGE
B) subways, which
C) subways actually
D) subways, and
3. The group was known as the Bolsheviks, overthrew the Tsarist government of Russia in 1917 and started a revolution.
A) NO CHANGE
B) group,
C) group
D) which was
4. When Lebron James drives into the lane and everybody cowers and hides.
A) NO CHANGE
B) James, drives into the lane
C) James, drives into the lane,
D) James drives into the lane,
5. Will Rogers was a humorist who disguised his wisdom in the homely clothing of the average person.
A) NO CHANGE
B) humorist; and
C) humorist;
D) humorist,

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6. People often go to the Hawaiian island of Oahu, they sunbathe, fish, swim, and explore.
 - A) NO CHANGE
 - B) Oahu, there they
 - C) Oahu, where they
 - D) Oahu, and

7. Benjamin Franklin read through the works of hundreds of writers, and marking the passages that he thought stood out above all others.
 - A) NO CHANGE
 - B) writers, his
 - C) writers by
 - D) writers,

8. The man studied the night sky, he also charted how the movement of stars changes over time.
 - A) NO CHANGE
 - B) sky, charting
 - C) sky. Charting
 - D) sky; and he charted

9. In 2018, the company had donated thousands of dollars to the city's industrial expansion project sponsored further research into the issue at the local university.
 - A) NO CHANGE
 - B) company,
 - C) company that
 - D) company, which

10. In the years that followed. Many came to appreciate Nostradamus's sayings as literal predictions of future events.
 - A) NO CHANGE
 - B) followed; many
 - C) followed, many
 - D) followed – many

11. Currently, there are only two TV shows in contention for the greatest of all time: the Wire, known for its depiction of crime and drug addiction in early 2000s Baltimore, and the Sopranos, known for its depiction of a New Jersey mob family so lifelike that actual mobsters thought it was real.
 - A) NO CHANGE
 - B) time, one being the
 - C) time; the
 - D) time, and the

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12. German power plants can produce up to 321 megawatts of electrical power, American ones can produce 110 megawatts.
- A) NO CHANGE
 - B) power; while
 - C) power, the
 - D) power, and
13. Chemicals may also play a role in plants' abilities to regulate their temperature, this helps them tolerate heat and cold.
- A) NO CHANGE
 - B) temperature; in effect, helping
 - C) temperature, helping
 - D) temperature. Accordingly, helping
14. The doctor gave the medicine to people suffering from the disease, he was elated to find that it worked.
- A) NO CHANGE
 - B) disease which
 - C) disease. It
 - D) disease; and he then noted that it