***Module: Written expression***

***Level: First year***

***Phrases and Clauses***

**1. Clauses:**

A clause is a group of words that has both a subject and a predicate. Every sentence must have at least one main clause.

*Examples:*

- Michael bought a new computer. (One sentence, one clause)  
- Michael bought a new computer, but he still has the old one. (One sentence, two clauses)  
- Although he still has his old one, Michael now has a new computer. (One sentence, two clauses)

**\*Clauses can be dependent or independent:**

 A- **An independent clause** (or main clause) makes sense by itself. It expresses a complete thought.

*Examples:*

1. Michael bought a new computer. (One independent clause)  
2. Michael bought a new computer, but he still has the old one. [Two independent clauses (Coordinating conjunctions don't count as part of the clause.)]  
3. Although he still has his old one, Michael now has a new computer. (Only the second clause is independent.)

**B- A dependent clause** (or subordinate clause) does not make sense by itself. It does not express a complete thought.

***Although he still has his old one****.*(Without the independent clause, a dependent clause is a sentence fragment.)

**Note:**

A dependent clause usually begins with a subordinating conjunction, a relative pronoun, or some other word that causes it to become dependent. A dependent clause will make sense only when attached to an independent clause.

***Although he still has his old one****.*(***Although*** is a subordinating conjunction.) *He still has his old one.*(Without the conjunction, the clause becomes independent.)

*Michael now has a new computer****although he still has his old one****.*(Combined with an independent clause, the dependent clause makes sense.)

- Dependent clauses can come after, before, or in the middle of the independent clause.

**Examples:**

* Michael now has a new computer **although he still has his old one**. (Dependent clause after an independent clause)
* **Although he still has his old one**, Michael now has a new computer. (Dependent clause before the independent clause)
* Michael, **although he still has his old one**, now has a new computer. (Dependent clause inside the independent clause)
* This new computer **which I bought yesterday** has already crashed twice.

**2. Phrases:**

A phrase is a group of words that does not have a subject, a verb, or both. It does not express a complete thought.

**Examples:**

The boy at the back likes to tease me. (Noun phrase)

In the room. (Prepositional phrase)

Putting on makeup is annoying. (Gerund phrase)

The task is very difficult. (Adjective phrase)

He read it very quickly. (Adverbial clause)

**2.1. Types of phrases:**

The types of phrases are based on the **head** word or the main word of the phrase. If the main word is a noun, it is a noun phrase; if it is an adjective, it is an adjectival phrase.

1. **Noun phrase**: it is made up of a *noun* as its head, *determiners* (quantifiers, articles, possessive adjectives, demonstrative adjectives), and *adjectives.*

**Examples:**

The yellow house is for sale.

We are sorry for her departure.

This book of physics is difficult.

Lisa gave the little boy a candy.

1. **Verb phrases**
   1. **Finite verb phrases:** they consist of main verbs and helping verbs

You **are reading**

The thief **was arrested**

* 1. **Non-finite verb phrases:**

1. **The gerund phrase:**

A gerund phrase is a phrase where the head word is a gerund plus a modifier (an adjective, an adverb, or a prepositional phrase) or an object.

**Examples:**

Swimming in the ocean is risky. (subject)

I love making new friends. (Direct object)

My favorite pastime is knitting scarves for all my friends. (SC)

1. **Participial phrases:**

It consists of a present participle or a past participle, modifiers and/or other words (pronoun or noun phrase).

**E.g:** **made of plastic,** the chair looks very beautiful.

**Raising their hands**, the students asked for extra papers.

**Note:**

A gerund has the same form as a present participle (stem+ing), however, they differ in their syntactic function. While a gerund functions as a noun, the present participle acts as an adjective.

***Example:***

**Eating too quickly** can cause heartburn. (Gerund/subject)

**Eating too quickly**, Sam felt sick. (Present participle/adjective)

1. **Infinitive phrases:**

It contains an infinitive, modifiers, and other related words.

E.g.: I want **to drive a car.**

**To succeed in an exam** is every student’s dream.

She sang a song **to please the audience.**

1. **Adjective phrases:**

It consists of an adjective as the head word and an adverb or other words that modify the adjective.

E. g: she bought a beautiful brown chair.

She gave me a cup full of tea.

1. **Adverbial phrases:**

Adverbial phrases are composed of adverbs.

E. g: He works very slowly.

1. **Prepositional phrases:** they consist of a preposition and a following noun, pronoun, gerund or noun phrase.

He is **on the way.**

The student **in the library** is reading