These three structures are a common part of English, and are all composed of groups of words. **Clauses**, **phrases** and **sentences** are **very similar, but they do have different roles.**

Learning the difference between them will help you make a lot more sense of English grammar, and will be very useful to improve your written English.

**What is a phrase?**

Words can be grouped together, **but without a subject or a verb**. This is called a phrase. لا تتضمن شبه الجملة فاعلا وفعلا

Because a phrase **has neither subject nor verb**, it can’t form a ‘**predicate**’. This is a structure that must contain a verb, and it tells you something about what the subject is doing. شبه الجملة تحتاج إلى فعل وفاعل

Phrases can be very short – or quite long. Two examples of phrases are:

*“After war” بعد الحرب*

*“Waiting for the Ministers to come”.في انتظار قدوم الوزراء*

Phrases can’t be used alone, but you can use them as part of a sentence, where they are used as parts of speech.

**What is a clause?**

Clauses are groups of words that have both subjects and predicates. Unlike phrases, **a clause can sometimes act as a sentence** – this type of clause is called an **independent clause**. This isn’t always the case, and some clauses can’t be used on their own – these are called **subordinate clauses**, and need to be used with an independent clause to complete their meaning.

An example of a subordinate clause is *“When the war broke out”*

An example of an independent clause is *“many victims fell”*

في حالة استخدام عبارة واحدة (مستقلة أو تابعة) **ينقص المعنى** **ولا يكتمل** incomplete meaning بخلاف الجملة sentence كما سنبينه في العنصر القادم.

**What is a sentence?**

A complete sentence has a subject and predicate, and **can often be composed of more than one clause.** As long as it has a subject and a predicate, a group of words can form a sentence, no matter how short.

*E.g. “the politicians discussed the issue of high prices in the parliament”*