

**REVIEW SHEET FOR PARTS OF SPEECH
AND PHRASES AND CLAUSES**

NOUNS: Person, place, thing or idea
(test: can the word be followed by the verb “is”?)

VERBS: Express an action or a state of being

PRONOUNS: Take the place of a noun (remember that relative pronouns can act as the subject of a subordinate clause)

ADJECTIVES: Words that modify or describe a noun
i.e. The slippery fish

ADVERBS: Words that modify or describe verbs, adjectives, or other adverbs
i.e. The stars twinkled bewitchingly in the dark blue sky.

CONJUNCTIONS: Link words, phrases or clauses

Coordinating Conjunctions
(link words, phrases or clauses of equal weight):

For
And
Nor
But
Or
Yet
So

Subordinating Conjunctions
(link subordinate clauses to independent clauses)

after
as long as
before
once
than
when
whether

although
as soon as
even though
provided that
though
whenever
while

as
as though
if
since
unless
where
why

as if
because
in order that
so that
until
wherever

PREPOSITIONS: A word that shows the relationship of a noun or pronoun, called the object of the preposition, to another word.

aboard	below	from	since
about	beneath	in	such as
above	beside	inside	through
across	besides	into	throughout
after	between	like	to
against	beyond	near	toward
along	but (as in except)		of
amid	off		under and underneath
among	by	on	until
around	concerning	onto	up
as	down	out	upon
at	during	outside	with
before	except	over	within
behind	for	past	without

PARTS OF A SENTENCE

SUBJECTS: The main word or word group that tells whom or what the sentence is about is called the simple (or main) subject.

- subjects are NEVER found in prepositional phrases
- try finding the main verb first, then asking “who?” or “what?” before the verb
- a subject complement is a word or word group that completes the meaning of a linking verb and identifies or modifies the subject (Randy seems **worried**)

Helpful Hint: While both word groups *and* sentences can contain subjects and verbs, a sentence’s *main subject(s) and verb(s)* are only going to be found in independent clauses.

VERBS: the main word or word group that tells what the subject is doing, being, or experiencing

DIRECT OBJECTS: a noun, pronoun, or word group that tells who or what receives the action of a verb or shows the result of the action

(I took my little **sister** to see the movie *Napoleon Dynamite*.)

IDENTIFYING PHRASES AND CLAUSES

Phrase: a word group that is lacking a subject, a verb, or both.

- If a word group begins with a preposition, it is automatically a phrase.
- You will *never* find a sentence's main subject or verb in a phrase.

Ex. Dancing and laughing, Julie pranced about in the first rain Austin had enjoyed in months.

(contains verbs, but no subject)

Ex. I rode my bike into town and parked it behind the dilapidated barn.

(contains neither a subject or a verb, and it begins with a preposition)

Clause: a word group that contains a subject and a verb, although they may not be the main subject and verb of a sentence. Clauses come in two basic forms:

Subordinate: Contains a subject and verb, but cannot stand alone as a complete sentence.

Independent: Contains a subject and verb and can stand alone as a complete sentence.

- Remember that a clause can begin with a relative pronoun (who, which, that, what, when)
- Subordinate clauses usually begin with subordinating conjunctions.
- In cases where a word (such as "after" or "before") can function as either a subordinating conjunction or a preposition, check to see if it is followed by a subject and verb; if it is, it is working as a subordinate conjunction.

Ex. While George dawdled over his homework, his friends played hockey.

(subordinate clause)

Ex. Santa Claus, who lives at the North Pole, loves reindeer.

(subordinate clause)

Ex. Mrs. Bowinkle, who owns the bakery, always brings muffins when she visits.

(independent clause)

Ex. I love to skydive because it helps me conquer my fear of heights.

(independent clause)