

Clauses and phrases

Adverbials and adverbial phrases

Adverbials change a sentence by adding extra detail to a verb. This can often be **where, when or how** something is happening, but can also explain **why**.

John sat down. ← Sentence

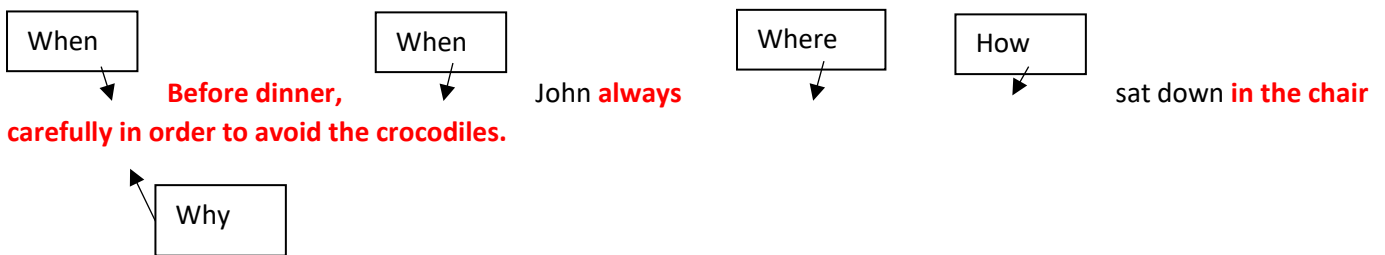
John sat down **in the chair**. ← Where

John sat down **before dinner**. ← When

John sat down **carefully**. ← How

Sometimes this is placed at the start of a sentence and is called a **fronted adverbial**. This needs a **comma** to separate it from the main clause.

Carefully, John sat down.



Prepositional phrases

These are similar to adverbial phrases, using a preposition (in, on, from, beside, etc). In the example above, **in the chair** is a prepositional phrase.

Relative clauses

A clause that describes a noun using a relative pronoun such as **who, whose, where, when, which** and **that**. These can be used in the middle or at the end of sentences.

My grandma, **who lives in New York**, is very old.

My grandma lives in New York, **which is in the USA**.

My grandma, **when she was younger**, moved to New York.

The grandma **that lives in New York** is my dad's mum.

Clauses and phrases

Main clause

Sometimes called an **independent clause**. This a group of words that make sense on their own and can be used as a sentence. They need a **subject** (usually a noun) and a **verb**.

Subordinate clause

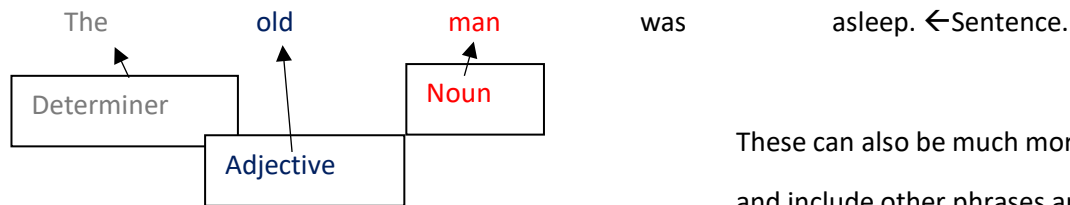
A group of words that do not make sense on their own. They must begin with a **subordinate conjunction** (ISAWAWABUB) but can be at the beginning, middle or end of a complex sentence.

Complex sentence

A sentence that uses a main clause and a subordinate clause.

Noun phrases

A noun phrase is a group of words that add detail to a noun. They must include a **determiner**, **adjective** and **noun**.



These can also be much more complex
and include other phrases and clauses.

Relative clause

The sneaky old man that had a gigantic beard was pretending to sleep while his young nephew from London waved through the window.

Prepositional phrase

“A gigantic beard” is another noun phrase!