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Class: 7

17-04-2021

Subject English.

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GRAMMAR

Words, Phrases, and Clauses

A word is the single unit of language which has a meaning. For example:

violin. play. Sandip study

A word can only be replaced in a sentence by another word of that class.

A phrase is a collection of words without a subject/verb or complete thought.

Phrases do not make sense on their own. They only give us a little more information about things or people. For example:

was very proud went blank for a year a story as old as time

Any single word can be replaced in a sentence by a phrase, and conversely, any phrase can be replaced in a sentence by a single word.

A clause has a noun and a verb, but may or may not contain a complete thought.

Clauses that can stand on their own as sentences are called independent or main clause. Clauses that lack a complete thought are called dependent clause. For example:

The policeman looked doubtful
when he heard the story.

(Independent clause)

(Dependent clause)

If a clause has a meaning, it becomes a sentence. For example:

The policeman looked doubtful.

Both clauses are also sentences.

He heard the story.