Phrases and Clauses Quick Reference Sheet

Phrase = a group of words without a subject and a verb; a phrase is not a complete sentence

Clause = an independent clause has a subject and verb and can stand alone

a dependent clause (subordinate clause) has a subject and a verb but cannot stand alone

Phrase Type	Definition	Example (underlined)	Clause Type	Definition	Example (underlined)
appositive phrase	a noun and any modifiers that follows another noun and renames it	John, <u>a student at FMS</u>, won the award.	**independent clause**	contains a subject and a verb and can stand alone as a simple sentence	Steven made a mistake.
verb phrase	helping verb(s) plus a main verb	I <u>should have listened</u> to Rachel's warning.	**dependent clause also called a subordinate clause**	contains a subject and verb but cannot stand alone as a sentence; it is a fragment	When he put the wrong ink in the printer
prepositional phrase	a preposition plus an object noun or pronoun	The car <u>in the parking lot</u> has a broken light.	**noun clause**	-a dependent clause that acts like a noun -7th grade will work with noun clauses as the subject of a sentence -begin with *that, if, whether, wh-*words*, wh-ever* words*, for*	<u>That his daughter got in trouble</u> surprises me. <u>For you not to finish school now</u> would be foolish. <u>What you said</u> made the crowd angry.
adjective phrase	-a prepositional phrase that modifies a noun or pronoun -adjectives answer the questions *which, what kind of, how many, how much*	Chris saw a cute cat <u>with white paws</u>.	**adjective clause**	-a dependent clause that acts like an adjective -begin with relative pronouns that, which, whose, who, whom -sometimes begin with since, where, when	The grocery store <u>where we shop</u> carries lots of organic foods. The jacket <u>that Sean wears</u> is plaid. We grow peaches on our farm, <u>which is near Austin</u>.
adverb phrase	-a prepositional phrase that modifies a verb, adjective, or adverb -adverbs answer the questions *how, when, where, why, to what extent*	Samson strolled <u>around the block</u> twice.	**adverb clause**	-a dependent clause that acts like an adverb -begin with subordinating conjunctions like after, since, because, unless, if, although	Kim is frustrated <u>when she can't play.</u> <u>Although Finn is short</u>, he is a skilled basketball player.