

GRACE ABOUNDING

The Core Knowledge Anthology of African-American Literature, Music, and Art

Unit I

Lesson Plan 1.6 | “Talk”

Lesson Objective: Distinguish Phrases from Clauses

Time: Thirty minutes

Lesson Content: To identify a clause by noticing that it has both a subject and a verb; to identify a phrase by noticing that it has either no subject or no verb (or neither)

Lesson Overview: The folktale “Talk” contains sentences with multiple subjects and verbs, so without knowing what a compound or complex sentence is, the student can learn to distinguish phrases from clauses. Through this exercise, teachers can also make students aware that varying sentence structure can make their writing more interesting. Students will read groups of words from the story and label each as a phrase or a clause. You can also have students write their own sentences using both phrases and clauses.

Mini-Lesson: Identifying Clauses and Phrases

A clause is relatively easy to identify. If it has a subject and a predicate, then it is a clause. (A **predicate** is the part of the sentence that gives information about the subject and which must contain a verb).

There are noun phrases, verb phrases, and prepositional phrases. While it is not necessary for younger students to distinguish different types of phrases, it is important that they learn to distinguish phrases from clauses.

Noun Phrase. Serves as a noun, or the object of a verb, and usually contains an adjective

Example: He is **the person you need to meet**. He is **my best friend**.

Verb Phrase. Consists of a verb, its direct or indirect object, and any adverbs that modify it

Example: The play **has already started**. John **thinks we should go to the movies**, instead.

Prepositional Phrase. Contains a preposition (relates a noun or pronoun to another part of the sentence, such as *on, of, at, since, onto, over, and between*)

Example: The deer jumped **over the fence**.

Sample Sentence: I didn’t know that the dog ran through the yard.

Phrase: *through the yard*

Clause: *the dog ran through the yard*

Key Terminology

Phrase. Two or more words in sequence that form a syntactic unit that is less than a complete sentence

Clause. A group of words containing a subject and a predicate and forming part of a compound or complex sentence



Student Handout 1.6 | “Talk”

Read each group of words and determine whether it is a phrase or a clause. If it is a clause, write the subject and verb. If it is a phrase, list any nouns, verbs, and/or adjectives that it contains. The first two have already been completed.

1. not far from the city of Accra
phrase not far (adj.), city (n.)
2. a country man went out to his garden
clause man (sub.), went (v.)
3. While he was digging

4. You never weeded me

5. Just then

6. on the trail

7. he asked them

8. no reason at all

9. Oh, yes it is

10. a talking yam

11. to dig yams

12. And my fish trap said

13. You'd run too

**Reading Check 1.6 | “Talk”**

Recall the facts. *Circle the best answer for each question.*

1. What were the major crops grown by the Ashanti farmers?
 - a. corn and beans
 - b. cacao and yams
 - c. wheat and alfalfa
 - d. potatoes and leeks

 2. What does the yam complain about?
 - a. not being weeded
 - b. not being taken to market
 - c. not being talked to
 - d. not being watered

 3. Who does the farmer first tell about what happened with the yam?
 - a. the priest
 - b. the fisherman
 - c. the dog
 - d. the weaver

 4. What contradicts what the weaver says?
 - a. the bundle of cloth
 - b. the yam
 - c. the gazelle
 - d. the loom

 5. What speaks last in the folktale?
 - a. the yam
 - b. the chief’s stool
 - c. the branch
 - d. the cloth
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**Reading Check 1.6** | “Talk”

Interpretation. Circle the best answer for each question.

6. Who would tell a folktale among the Ashanti people?
 - a. mother
 - b. father
 - c. storyteller
 - d. priest

 7. Which of the following beliefs does “Talk” express?
 - a. Buddhism
 - b. Christianity
 - c. Islam
 - d. animism

 8. Which of the following literary techniques does the story NOT use?
 - a. dialogue
 - b. repetition
 - c. first-person narrative
 - d. third-person narrative

 9. What does each human require before he reacts to the problem?
 - a. visual proof
 - b. direct experience
 - c. written word
 - d. a full explanation

 10. What do you know upon finishing the story?
 - a. what the chief will do
 - b. what the people will do
 - c. nothing
 - d. what the farmer will do
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Name: _____ Date: _____

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Vocabulary Test 1.6 | "Talk"

Choose from the list of words below to complete the paragraph. Write your answer in the spaces below the passage.

- weaver
- ford
- gazelle
- wheeze
- refrain
- scowling

Marsha has been a _____ of fine fabrics for fifteen years. Last week, she sketched a pattern that contained a _____ standing in a river _____. A _____, angry hippo blocks the gentle animal's path and warns her back with a _____ and a snort. She stands back with one foreleg curled up because she must _____ from drinking while the hippo threatens her.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____