THE CLAUSE

A **clause** is a group of words containing a verb and its subject. A clause that can stand by itself as a sentence is a main **clause**.

\[
\begin{array}{ll}
S & V \\
He walked down the street & Ken plays in the band.
\end{array}
\]

A clause that cannot stand by itself is a **subordinate clause**.

\[
\begin{array}{ll}
S & V \\
As I approached the house-(What happened?) & If you come to my house-(Then what?)
\end{array}
\]

**Phrase or Clause?** A clause has a subject and a verb. A phrase does not.

\[
\begin{array}{ll}
\text{ex.} & \text{Losing my amethyst ring was a blow. (phrase)} \\
& \text{When I lost my ring, I was unhappy. (clause)}
\end{array}
\]

**Identify Clauses and Phrases.** Read each sentence below. If the underlined group of words is a phrase, write **P**. If it is a clause, write **C**.

**Example:** When I recover from the flu, I'll leave on my trip.  **C**

1. If you have solved that puzzle, here's a harder one.  **______**
2. Walking toward the old house, Joan met no one.  **_____**
3. The box **on the table** contains Jack's birthday present.  **_____**
4. Do you know **what is in the box**?  **_____**
5. We saw the old woman **climbing the stairs**.  **_____**
6. Nodding to me casually, the principal went into his office.  **_____**
7. When Amy saw her father, she rushed up to him.  **_____**
8. We saw the old woman as she climbed the stairs.  **_____**
9. **After listening to the teacher's directions**, the class began to take the test.  **_____**
10. This is the record **that I sent for**.  **_____**
11. Smiling cheerfully, Kim walked down the hall.  **_____**
12. **If you can spare the time**, let's go to the movie tonight.  **_____**
13. **Standing down the hall**, Mr. Sims looked neither right nor left.  **_____**
14. When I came home, I found my brother there ahead of me.  **_____**
15. **Opening the mail**, Mrs. Harris found three bills.  **_____**
16. After they had fought the cold in January, the Millers went south in February.  **_____**
17. If you like Nantucket, you will love Washington Island.  **_____**
18. There goes the ambulance, **hurrying to the hospital**  **_____**
19. Be quiet **until the buzzer sounds**.  **_____**
20. **Standing in the rain at the parade**, Fred got drenched.  **_____**
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