

Answer the following before seminar, and discuss your answers during seminar. Read appropriate sections from a writing guide (Messenger or Hacker) if you need help with understanding the grammatical terms: phrase, clause, independent clause, subordinate clause, main verb, subject. During seminar, please ask for clarifications on any concepts that are not clear to you.

1. Identify whether the underlined words constitute a phrase or a clause.
  - a. Knowing too much is bad for the trees.
  - b. The light went on, and the room became bright.
  - c. Know thyself.
  - d. The essay, written in only two hours, was not very good.
  - e. A better essay, one with a higher grade, probably takes longer to write.
  - f. Kill all lawyers, minions of evil.
  - g. If a tree falls in the woods, does it make a sound?
  - h. Arriving at school, deciding to skip class, and seeing my prof., I hid.
  - i. If I knew how to read other people's minds, I'd be rich.
  - j. Whoever knows poetry knows the world.
2. Identify whether the underlined words are independent or subordinate clauses.
  - a. If everyone could get along, there would be no more war.
  - b. Whether or not you like it, grammar is important.
  - c. I saw the person who was standing there.
  - d. I know what I want, and I intend to get it.
  - e. Because I could not stop for Death, he kindly stopped for me.
3. Identify the main verb (of the independent clause) in the following sentences. (Note that the main verb may be more than one word.) Also, identify the subject of the main verb.
  - a. The sun was shining nicely yesterday.
  - b. Without telling me too much, she said the people were planning a surprise party.
  - c. If I knew grammar well, I wouldn't have to be doing these.
  - d. The house, which could not have been much smaller, was still cozy.
  - e. Jane Austen was a writer who wrote novels at the beginning of the nineteenth century.
  - f. Be thankful I'm not asking you to parse fully each sentence!
  - g. After reading the first paragraph, please tell me what the essay is about.
  - h. Some of these sentences are a little tricky.
  - i. We have not had any bananas today.
  - j. The cold weather is trying to get me down.
4. Identify all the independent clauses in the following sentences.
  - a. The sun was hot, and so was I.
  - b. To read, to ponder, and to enjoy is all that is needed to study literature.
  - c. Whether or not you know, I will be traveling to many schools, where I hope to find some chalk.
  - d. The person next to me was singing; it was not very pleasant.
  - e. He will return tomorrow, or he will not return at all.