

Phrases Versus Clauses

To understand punctuation (commas), it is helpful to understand the difference between a **phrase** and a **clause**.

* A **phrase** is a collection of words that may have nouns or verbals (verb stems with an -ed, or -ing ending), but it does not have a subject doing a verb.

The following are examples of phrases:

- dodged behind the dog
- smashing into a fence
- before the first test

In these examples above, you will find **nouns** (dog, fence, test, devastation, ignorance, intelligence, thousands, pieces). You also have some **verbals** (dodged, smashing), but in no case is the noun functioning as a subject doing a predicate verb.

They are all phrases.

* A **clause** is a collection of words that has a subject that is actively doing a verb. Clauses can be dependent or independent. (Since I am hungry, I will eat.)

D

I

Write P by the phrases and C by the clauses.

- since she laughs at my jokes
- between ignorance and intelligence
- broken into thousands of pieces
- because of her glittering smile
- I despise individuals of low character
- when the saints go marching in
- Peeta is nicer than a Tracker Jacker.
- because she smiled at him
- after the devastation

ING Notes

ING as a subject

In this case, the ING word function as a noun (although it looks like a verb because it ends in ING). It is part of an independent clause. In these example, it is the SUBJECT of the sentence...

- **Eating** people is wrong.
- **Hunting** tigers is dangerous.
- **Flying** makes me nervous.
- **Brushing** your teeth is important.
- **Smoking** causes lung cancer.

ING Phrases and Clauses:

An ING phrase is a phrase that starts with a word ending in ING AND it can't stand alone—so without the rest of the sentence it is a fragment. However, it is different than a dependent clause because it doesn't start with AAAWWIBBUST words.

1. Sitting alone, she chose the backseat of the bus.
2. The store was closed when she got there, meaning she didn't get the iPhone.
3. You are smarter than you seem, excluding the fact that your jokes are terrible.
4. Settling down for the night, she curled up with her blanket on the couch.
5. This is going to be a great day, seeing that we are going on vacation.

What is the difference in these two uses of ING words?

Name: _____

ING Practice

Before you begin, see if you can explain the two ING options without looking at your notes. If you need your notes, that's okay, but it just shows you that you need to study!

ING as a Subject:

ING phrases/clauses:

For the sentences below, put a C if the ING word is in a CLAUSE, P if the ING word is in a phrases, or a S if the ING word is the subject.

_____ Starting Monday, you all need to jump up and down 10 times before entering my room.

_____ I know this is late notice, but please don't part on the side of the building, meaning I don't want to see your car there.

_____ Dashing through the snow, the bunny hit his head on a rock.

_____ Cleaning driveways is a full time job when it snows.

_____ Running as fast as I could, I finished the race in first place.

_____ Knowing is better than wondering.

For the sentences below, add a comma where it should go. Remember, you should add a COMMA to separate the ING phrase or clause from the IC.

1. Over the rainbow, there is a place where you can find gold meaning you will get rich.
2. Spending money is bad when you don't have any money to spend.
3. I like to walk at Kenwood Mall, but it gets really crowded making me slow down.
4. Walking through Kenwood Mall I notice the royal blue is the color of the season.
5. I stopped at the bookstore anyway knowing I was going to be late



Write one sentence that uses an ING as a subject.

Write one sentence that uses an ING as a phrase or clause.