



“So, what are clauses?” asked What?.

“Simple,” said Poodle. “We’ve already seen them.”

“What?” asked What?. “I didn’t see them.”

“Yes,” Poodle said, “you saw several.

**A clause is a group of words  
with a subject and a predicate.**

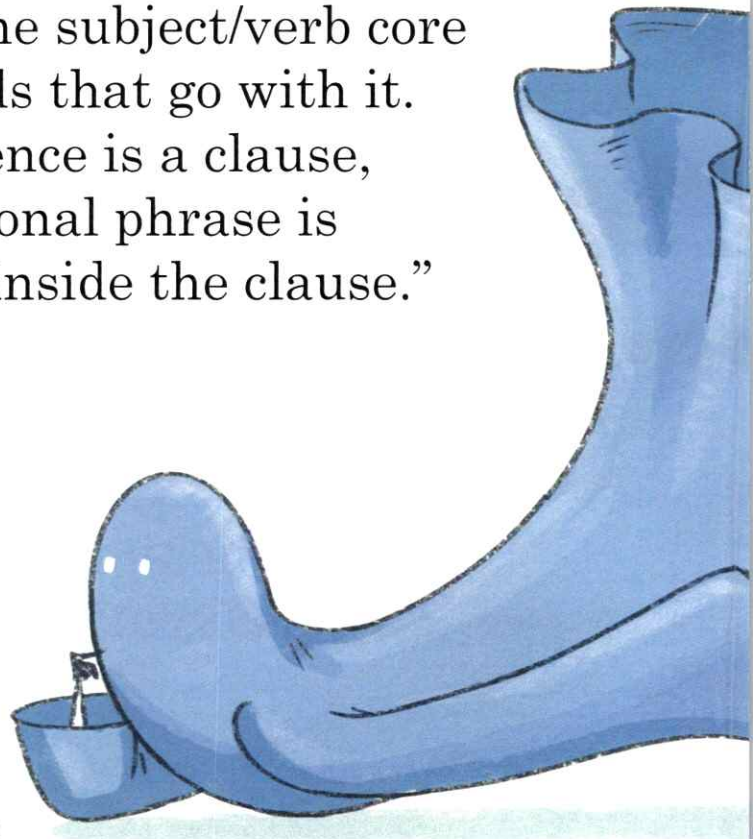
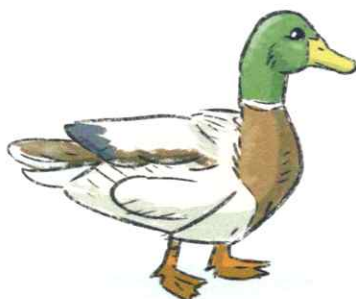
At level two, we call the verb the predicate.”

|      |        |         |        |       |      |                   |
|------|--------|---------|--------|-------|------|-------------------|
| The  | ornery | monster | howled | at    | the  | moon.             |
| adj. | adj.   | n.      | v.     | prep. | adj. | n.                |
|      |        | subj.   | AVP    |       |      |                   |
|      |        |         |        |       |      | --prep. phrase--- |

“See?” said Poodle.

“The clause is just the subject/verb core  
and all of the words that go with it.

This whole sentence is a clause,  
and a prepositional phrase is  
part of the clause, inside the clause.”



Here are three more:

Two sneaky **ducks wobbled** to the front.

If six **ducks trekked** to the west...

An old **duck arrived** on the wind.

“Each of the three is a clause,” said Poodle,  
“but the second one is not a sentence;  
it is not a complete thought.  
Some clauses make sense by themselves,  
and others do not.”

The monsters stared at Poodle.  
Were they prepared?  
“Simple,” he had said.  
They were not so sure.





“So,” Poodle said, “are you ready to jump through our first portal?”

Everyone nodded vertically, except Burgull.

Burgull looked glum.

His consonants wiggled horizontally, like squiggles, which was not good.

Burgull did not look ready.

“What?” Poodle asked. “What is it, Burgull?”

“Gurkrbr,” said Burgull. “Burgull have a song.”

“A song?” Poodle asked, startled.

“Burgull, you don’t sing songs. We have no time for songs now.”

“Grbrkyepyep,” Burgull said.

“Got a brrrgy song.”

