

Name: Date:

CONVENTIONS

TYPES OF PHRASES

The Metamorphosis

Franz Kafka

A **verb** names an action or condition. A **verb phrase** includes a verb and one or more auxiliary verbs. Auxiliary verbs come before the main verb and give additional information about the action or condition, such as the verb tense, mood, and voice. In the sentence *I have walked for an hour*, the verb phrase is *have walked*. Sometimes a verb phrase is interrupted by a modifier, such as *not*, *never*, or *always*, and contractions of those words. These interrupters are not considered part of the verb phrase. For example, in the sentence *I have already walked for an hour*, the verb phrase is *have walked*, without the word *already*.

Auxiliary Verbs include forms of *be*; *do*; *have*; *can*, *could*; *shall*, *should*; *will*, *would*; *may*, and *must*. In some verb phrases, the auxiliary verb is part of a contraction with a noun or pronoun, as in Aisha's coming (is coming) to my house this afternoon. We've chosen (have chosen) our project for biology class.

A. DIRECTIONS: For each item below, write *yes* on the line if the words make up a complete verb phrase. Write *no* if the words do not make a verb phrase.

1. will go Yes
2. have been reading Yes
3. he travels No
4. are hoping Yes
5. swimming No

B. DIRECTIONS: Underline the verb phrase(s) in each sentence from "The Metamorphosis".

1. "But I must not stay in bed uselessly," said Gregor to himself. **Must stay**
2. Could the alarm have failed to ring? **Have failed**
3. If I were to try that with my boss, I'd be thrown out on the spot. **Were to try, would be thrown**
4. He would've fallen right off his desk! **Would have fallen**
5. Besides, by then someone from the office will arrive to inquire about me, because the office will open before seven o'clock." **will arrive , will open**
6. At the moment he **was lying** right there on the carpet, and no one who knew about his condition **would've** seriously **demand**ed that he let the manager

in.

7. But the manager **must have suspected** something, because he made a leap down over a few stairs and disappeared, still shouting, “Huh!”