

## Adverbial Clauses

### 1. Definition of an Adverbial Clause:

- An adverbial clause is a subordinate clause that functions as an adverbial in the main clause. It is used to modify the verb, an adjective, another adverb or the rest of the sentence.
- An adverbial clause may, for example, say *when* or *where* or *how*, *why*, *for what purpose* about the action described in the main clause.

I will come *tomorrow*.

I will come *after I have been to the shops*.

Leave the books *there*.

leave the books *wherever you like*.

### 2. Types of Adverbial Clauses:

Adverbial clauses can be categorized according to the meaning of the subordinator which introduces them and their uses.

#### 2.1. Adverbial Clauses of Time

- An Adverbial clause of time is a subordinate clause that says when something happens.
- Adverbial clauses of time are introduced by conjunctions such as **after**, **as**, **as soon as**, **before**, **once**, **since**, **till**, **until**, **when**, **whenever** or **while**:

I'll come when I'm ready.

I'm not leaving till I know the truth.

Always wash your hands before you handle food.

You'll be all right once you get to the hotel.

Jenny gets excited whenever she meets her friends.

I watched my mother as she prepared the dinner.

He washed the dishes while his girlfriend vacuumed the floor.

I will come over as soon as I finish eating.

Gemma hasn't stopped working since she arrived.

### Reducing Adverb Clauses of Time

Adverb clauses of time are reduced in different ways depending on the time expression used. Here are the most common:

#### Before / After / Since

- Keep the time word
- Remove the subject
- Change the verb to the gerund form OR use a noun

Examples:

- After he took the test, he slept for a long time. -> *After taking the test, he slept for a long time* OR *After the test, he slept for a long time*.
- Since I moved to Rochester, I have gone to the Philharmonic numerous times. -> *Since moving to Rochester, I have gone to the Philharmonic numerous times*.

### As

- Delete "as"
- Remove the subject
- Change the verb to the gerund form

#### Examples:

- As I was falling asleep, I thought about my friends in Italy. -> *Falling asleep, I thought about my friends in Italy.*
- As she was driving to work, she saw a deer in the road. -> *Driving to work, she saw a deer in the road.*

### As soon as

- Delete as soon as and replace it with "upon" or "on"
- Remove the subject
- Change the verb to the gerund form

#### Examples:

- As soon as she finished the report, she gave it to the boss. -> *Upon finishing the report, she gave it to the boss.*
- As soon as we woke up, we got our fishing poles and went to the lake. -> *On waking up, we got our fishing poles and went to the lake.*

## **2.2. Adverbial Clauses of Place**

An adverbial clause of place is a subordinate clause that says where something happens.

We can use the conjunctions '**where**', '**wherever**', and '**everywhere**':

- Wherever I go, I always see a McDonald's restaurant.
- I'm not sure where she lives.
- We met kind people everywhere we went.
- Where there is a will, there is a way.
- He followed her wherever she went.
- That's the town where I was born.

## **2.3. Adverbial Clauses of Cause/Reason**

Clauses of cause are used to show why something happens. These clauses begin with the conjunctions '**because**', '**since**', and '**as**':

- I listen to classical music because it sounds beautiful.
- Since you're so kind to me, I will help you.
- As it was so sunny, he walked to the park.

Note: '**because**' is more common in informal conversations than '**since**' or '**as**.'

## **Reducing Adverb Clauses of Causality**

Adverb clauses of causality (providing the reason for something) are introduced by the subordinating conjunctions "because," "since" and "as." Each of these reduce in the same manner.

- Remove the subordinating conjunction
- Remove the subject
- Change the verb to the gerund form

Examples:

- Because he was late, he drove to work. -> *Being late, he drove to work.*
- Since she was tired, she slept in late. -> *Being tired, she slept in late.*

**NOTE:** When using the negative form of the verb, place "not" before the gerund when reducing.

Examples:

- As he didn't want to disturb her, he left the room quickly. -> *Not wanting to disturb her, he left the room quickly.*
- Because she didn't understand the question, she asked the teacher for some help. -> *Not understanding the question, she asked the teacher for some help.*

#### **2.4. Adverbial Clauses of Effect (Result)**

Clauses of effect tell us about consequences. They often begin with '**so...that**', and '**such...that**'.

We usually put an adjective between '**so**' and '**that**':

- I was so tired that I couldn't stay awake.
- The meal was so delicious that we made it again the next day.

We can put an adjective and a noun (or just a noun) between '**such**' and '**that**':

- She is such a good runner that nobody can catch her.
- It was such a warm day that we could not believe it was February.

#### **2.5. Adverbial Clauses of Concession/Contrast**

Adverbial clause of concession describe contrasting statements or circumstances despite which something happens.

They usually begin with 'although', 'though', "even if", 'even though', 'while' or 'whereas':

- Although it rained, they enjoyed their walk.
- I enjoyed the meal, though it was expensive.
- Even though I was full, I couldn't stop eating.
- Harry, while he was almost crying from the pain, decided to finish the race.
- Joseph was very popular whereas his brother had more enemies than friends.

#### **Reducing Adverb Clauses of Opposition**

Adverb clauses of opposition beginning with "though," "although," or "while" can be reduced in the following manner:

- Keep the subordinating conjunction
- Remove the subject and the verb "be"
- Keep the noun or adjective
- OR change the verb to the gerund form

Examples:

- (adjective) While he was a happy man, he had many serious problems. -> *While happy, he had many serious problems.*
- (noun) Though she was an excellent student, she failed to pass the test. -> *Though an excellent student, she failed to pass the test.*
- (gerund) Although he had a car, he decided to walk.-> *Although having a car, he decided to walk.*

### 2.6. Adverbial Clauses of Manner

Adverbial clauses of manner show us how something happens. They usually begin with the conjunctions 'like', 'as though' or 'as if':

- She looked as though she was in pain.
- Ryan walked past as if he hadn't seen us.
- He talked to me like I was a child.

### 2.7. Adverbial Clauses of Condition

- Adverbial clause of condition is a subordinate clause that states the conditions or circumstances that are, or would be, necessary for what is talked about in the main clause to happen or apply.

Conjunctions that introduce conditional clauses are **as long as, if, on condition that, provided, provided that, providing, providing that, so long as** and **unless**:

- I'll come if she invites me.
- I won't come unless she invites me.
- You won't pass your exams if you don't study.
- You won't pass your exams unless you work harder.
- So long as you don't forget your lines, you'll be fine.
- You can stay providing you lend a hand.

### 2.8. Adverbial Clauses of Comparison

Clauses of comparison are used to **compare** things or ideas. They often begin with the conjunctions '**than**' or '**as...as**':

- My brother is older than he looks.
- She is as beautiful as she is smart.
- You are stronger than you think.
- That restaurant is not as good as it used to be.

### Notes:

Notice that certain conjunctions may introduce more than one type of clause:

As I was leaving my office, I heard an explosion in the street. (time - says when)

As I am just leaving, you can have my seat. (reason - says why)

Do as I do. (manner - says how)

He has been very depressed since his wife died. (time - says when)

Since I have nothing better to do, I'll come with you. (reason - says why)

### Practice

**Exercise 1: Put a line under each adverbial clause in the following sentences and state its type:**

1. I went to bed when I got home.
2. I went to bed though I wasn't feeling very tired.
3. I don't dance as well as you do.
4. Because they were late, they didn't get very good seats in the cinema.
5. Come whenever you want.
6. He's more relaxed than he was before he retired.
7. I ate so much at the dinner that I was almost sick.
8. Since you're here, you can help me clean the house.
9. She's not as shy as she used to be.
10. When I'm doing the ironing, I like to watch television or a video.
11. As there was nobody at home, I left the parcel on the doorstep.
12. As I was walking along the street, a tile fell off a roof and nearly hit me.

**Exercise 2: Complete the following sentences by choosing one of the conjunctions given in the brackets:**

1. Take an umbrella with you \_\_\_\_\_ you don't get wet. (because, until, so that)
2. Take an umbrella with you \_\_\_\_\_ it might rain. (because, until, so that)
3. Don't go out \_\_\_\_\_ it stops raining. (because, until, so that)
4. Don't go out \_\_\_\_\_ it's raining. (whereas, if, while)
5. I'll come tomorrow \_\_\_\_\_ I can. (if, when, unless)
6. I'll come tomorrow \_\_\_\_\_ I can't for some reason. (if, when, unless)
7. \_\_\_\_\_ the meeting finishes on time, I should be here by six. (if, providing, so)
8. She was late home \_\_\_\_\_ she missed the bus. (as, because, that)
9. She was so late leaving the office \_\_\_\_\_ she missed the bus. (when, that, as)

10. Ask him yourself \_\_\_\_\_ you want to know. (if, in order that, until)
11. I found it exactly \_\_\_\_\_ it was supposed to be. (when, where, because)
12. I've found out \_\_\_\_\_ the meeting is supposed to take place. (when, where, because)

**Exercise 3: Each of the following items contains an error caused by a lack of understanding of the precise meaning of a subordinating conjunction or by a ignorance of the possible forms of adverbial clauses. Correct the errors:**

1. I learned the English language in a hard way, by immersing myself completely in an English environment. I never really received or took any English courses after that I graduated from high school.
2. She made a decision to take a risk even she knew there was no contact address for her to trace in the future.
3. During the first few weeks, he felt that there was a war inside him every time when he took a tablet.
4. Leora escapes and gets help from her friend, the Wizard, who tells her she must find a balloon and plant it under a tree in the courtyard, saying magic words.
5. After saying the magic words, the tree begins to quiver and blossom with hundreds and hundreds of balloons that start floating in the air, filling the courtyard, the town and the whole country.
6. We ask that this journey won't end before we will have dreamt.

**Exercise 4: Reduce the following adverbial clauses if possible:**

1. Before Nick left on his trip, his son gave him a big hug and a kiss.
2. Before Nick left on his trip, he gave his itinerary to his secretary.
3. After Tom had worked hard in the garden all afternoon, he took a shower and then went to the movies with his friends.
4. After Sunita had made a delicious chicken curry for her friends, they wanted the recipe.
5. Before a friend tries to do something hard, an American may say "Break a leg!" to wish him or her good luck.
6. Emily always straightens her desk before she leaves the office at the end of the day.

**Exercise 5: Combine the following sentences using adverbial clauses either at the beginning or at the end of the sentence:**

1. Frank started medical training. He drove a forklift for a living.
2. The rains had started the mud slides. The homes were not safe to live in.
3. Older people love to sit in the park. They feed the birds.
4. We watched the robins. They raised their young in our apple tree.
5. Becky read the book. It was recommended by a friend.
6. I enjoyed camping out. I was much younger.
7. Joe recognized the man. The man had stopped his car to help.
8. Dad donates his suits to charity. He has worn them a year.
9. The policemen delayed the drivers. The wrecks were cleared.
10. Ann ate an apple. She studied her vocabulary.