

The Adverb Clause A

6e. An *adverb clause* is a subordinate clause that modifies a verb, an adjective, or an adverb.

Unlike an adverb phrase, an adverb clause contains both a verb and its subject.

ADVERB PHRASE **With great speed**, Tomás ran the race.

ADVERB CLAUSE **Because Tomás ran the race with great speed**, he won.

EXERCISE A For each of the following sentences, identify the underlined word or word group by writing above it *A* for *adverb*, *AP* for *adverb phrase*, or *AC* for *adverb clause*.

Example 1. I started painting early so that I would finish by 3:00 P.M. ^{AC}

- The employee at the hardware store mixed the paint carefully.
- He matched the paint sample I brought with me.
- As much as I enjoy painting, I have other things to do.
- Do not paint the fence until you scrape off the old paint chips.
- You should also sand the wood so that the new paint adheres evenly.
- Before you start, spread an old towel or sheet under the work area.
- The dropcloth will catch paint if it drips from your brush.
- Because I did such a great job on our fence, the neighbor asked me to paint his fence.
- I can paint his fence sometime during summer vacation.
- As soon as I finish cleaning these brushes, I'm taking the rest of the day off.

EXERCISE B Underline the adverb clause in each of the following sentences. Then, identify the question the adverb clause answers by writing above it *how*, *when*, *where*, *why*, *how much*, or *under what condition*.

Example 1. Please come over whenever you finish your homework. ^{when}

- I ate a bowl of popcorn while I did my homework.
- We will have to hurry if we want to catch the 5:30 bus.
- From the top of the hill, you can see trees wherever you look.
- I need to borrow a pencil because I left mine at home.
- The puppies act as if they are hungry.
- A giraffe is taller than an elephant is.
- Before we left for our vacation, we unplugged the computer.
- Since I love mystery stories, I enjoy books by Agatha Christie.
- They watch more television programs than I do.
- Set the potted plants where they will get plenty of light.

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ADVERB She shoots the basketball **accurately**.

ADVERB PHRASE She shoots the basketball **with accuracy**.

ADVERB CLAUSE She made the basket **because she shot the ball accurately**.

EXERCISE For each of the following sentences, identify the underlined word or word group by writing above it *ADV* for *adverb*, *AP* for *adverb phrase*, or *AC* for *adverb clause*. Then, circle the word or words the adverb, adverb phrase, or adverb clause modifies.

Example 1. ^{AC} Although he ran as fast as he could, he missed the bus.

1. The stonecutters worked slowly and carefully.
2. Sweep the floor after you finish the project.
3. We sleep with the windows open whenever the weather is pleasant.
4. Before Sam went skating with his friends, he finished his homework.
5. In August, it is really hot at four o'clock.
6. The guide's canoe glided silently across the lake.
7. I usually write in my journal after everyone else has gone to bed.
8. The lioness crouched warily in the tall grass.
9. After a hard day's work, I always sleep soundly.
10. Yesterday I left my jacket in my locker.
11. I raised my hand because I knew the answer.
12. My father always waters his flower garden before he goes to work.
13. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, we practice after school.
14. The audience cheered and clapped enthusiastically.
15. The fly buzzed around the room.
16. As soon as you finish that book, please lend it to me.
17. Tom and Julie met us at the restaurant.
18. Never ride your bicycle without wearing a helmet.
19. Call me after you have finished your chores.
20. The lights went out during the thunderstorm.

Subordinating Conjunctions

Adverb clauses begin with *subordinating conjunctions*. Common subordinating conjunctions include *after, although, as if, as soon as, because, before, if, since, than, unless, until, when, wherever,* and *while*.

Some subordinating conjunctions, such as *after, as, before, since,* and *until,* can also be used as prepositions.

SUBORDINATING CONJUNCTION **After** I weed the garden, I put mulch around my new plants.

PREPOSITION It becomes too hot to garden **after** two o'clock.

EXERCISE A For each of the following sentences, indicate how the underlined word is used by writing above it *SC* for *subordinating conjunction* or *PREP* for *preposition*.

Example 1. ^{SC} After the rain soaked the earth, many seedlings appeared.

1. I have been trying to finish shelling these beans since yesterday.
2. Until you have read the instructions, do not prune that tree.
3. As the moon rose, coyotes slipped out of the trees.
4. I expected more flowers in the garden after I had planted so many seeds.
5. After this long, hot afternoon of garden work, I need a nap.

EXERCISE B Underline the adverb clause in each sentence, and circle each subordinating conjunction.

Example 1. I patched the garden fence after I noticed the rabbits' entry point.

6. As soon as the ground softens in the spring, plant your garden.
7. Some seeds take more time to sprout than others do.
8. If you want to grow morning glories, start the seeds under lights.
9. When the seeds sprout, you can transplant them into the garden.
10. Plant them near a fence or wall so that the plants can climb.
11. After the young plants grow strong, they will produce flowers.
12. The flowers will look as if they are big blue trumpets.
13. They're called morning glories because they open each morning.
14. When they are warmed by the morning sun, they open.
15. If the day is dark or stormy, they stay tightly shut, like closed umbrellas.