



lingoda

# Adverbial clauses

GRAMMAR

LEVEL  
Advanced

NUMBER  
C1\_2051G\_EN

LANGUAGE  
English





## Goals

- Can explain the difference between adverbial clauses and adverbial phrases.
- Can build my own complex sentences using adverbial clauses and conjunctions.



Do you have any questions **before we begin the lesson?**

Everything will be clear **as long as you pay attention.**

I hope you are ready **as it is time to start learning!**



## Adverbial clauses

- An adverbial clause is a **dependent clause** which functions as an **adverb**.



The burglars sprang out of the bushes **once they saw the family leave**.



## Adverbial phrases

- In contrast, **adverbial phrases** serve the same function in a sentence as an adverb: they **modify the verb or another adverb**. They do not have their own subject.

- The lioness crept along the grass **very quietly**.

The adverbial phrase **very quietly** modifies the verb, telling us how the lioness crept.

- I **almost never** take time off in this company.

This adverbial phrase **almost never** tells us how frequently the worker takes time off.





## Adverbial phrases

Do you know any examples of  
adverbial phrases?



## Adverbial clauses



Adverbial clauses behave in a similar way to adverbial phrases, but with the following distinctions:

- They contain a verb and a subject.
- They begin with a subordinating conjunction.

Independent clause	Adverbial clause
<b>William thought he was in trouble</b>	until he looked across the table at his mother.
<b>Shut the windows in the back room</b>	before the rain gets in.
<b>I'm happy to come to dinner</b>	if you promise there will be a vegetarian option.
<b>Remember to lock up the office</b>	when you have finished working.



## Adverbial vs relative clauses



- Adverbial clauses **function like adverbs**. They give us more information about adjectives, adverbs, verbs or verb phrases.
- In contrast, **relative clauses** tell us more about **nouns**.

sentences with adverbial clauses	sentences with relative clauses
William thought he was in trouble <b>until he looked across the table at his mother</b> .	William, <b>who is five years old</b> , thought he was in trouble.
Shut the windows in the back room <b>before the rain gets in</b> .	The windows <b>that are in the back room</b> need to be shut.
I'm happy to come to dinner <b>if you promise there will be a vegetarian option</b> .	The dinner <b>that your mother made</b> was delicious.
Remember to lock up the office <b>when you have finished working</b> .	The office, <b>which is in Berlin</b> , is too small for the number of employees working there.





## Categorise

Sort the adverbial phrases from the adverbial clauses. Adverbial clauses contain a subject and a verb.

after Jane said  
goodbye

very late

while he watered  
the garden

with great silence

in silence

when he saw the  
ball fly through the  
air

really quickly

behind the chair

adverbial phrases

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adverbial clauses

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## Adverbial clauses

Adverbial clauses **function** in the same way as **adverbs**. The clause modifies a **verb**, **adjective** or another **adverb**. Observe how it modifies each of these in the table below.

Heston ran incredibly quickly **as if he were a flash of lightning**.

- Here the adverbial clause modifies the **adverb** quickly.

The crowd could become boisterous **if Manchester United don't score a goal**.

- In this sentence the **adjective** boisterous is modified.

The cyclists careened through the streets **as though they were out of control**.

- Here the **verb** careened is modified by the adverbial clause.



## Rules for adverbial clauses

Adverbial clauses add more information to independent clauses.

- They are attached to independent clauses after being joined by a subordinating conjunction.
- Adverbial clauses affecting verbs are moveable and can be placed at the beginning or end of a sentence.

- **If you practise every day**, you will become adept at playing the saxophone.

Notice how we can shift the adverbial clause to the end of the sentence.

- You will become adept at playing the saxophone **if you practise every day**.





## Commas



Pay close attention to the rules regarding adverbial clauses and commas. Use a comma if you place the adverbial clause at the beginning of the sentence.

- If the adverbial clause comes after the independent clause, no comma is necessary.

Adverbial clause	Independent clause
After they watched the film,	they all went to the bar.
While Summer brushed her hair,	Robert prepared a scrumptious breakfast.
While the storm passed,	the community took shelter in their homes.
Provided that the conditions are fine,	I will take the position.
When she started singing,	the crowd went completely silent.





## Example

- Adverbial clauses can add more information to our sentences, and help us communicate more effectively. They can also help your sentences seem more sophisticated.



The dancers glided across the stage **until the end of the performance.**



## Place commas in the sentences where necessary

1. After tasting the eggs Robert decided they needed salt.



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2. Summer enjoyed the breakfast even though she wasn't hungry.



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3. Although the horn section was terrific my favourite part of the show were the strings.



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4. Fernando decided to cycle home rather than taking the bus with Lisa.



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5. If you promise I can bring my friends I will come to the party.



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## Shuffle

**Practise moving the adverbial clause to the beginning or end of the sentence.**

1. Everybody rushed to help when the elderly woman fell down.
2. After you've finished tiling the roof, please help me with the plastering.
3. Take a hat and a proper packed lunch rather than a bag of sweets.
4. As much as I find you annoying, you really are very cute.
5. The salsa dancers wore wide smiles while the audience at the bar cheered loudly.



## Identify the adverbial clauses

1. Grandmother never understood jazz music until she went to the concert in town.



...until she went to the concert in town.

2. Adriane was frustrated with her saxophone because she couldn't hit the note.



\_\_\_\_\_

3. Study the timetable carefully lest we miss our train.



\_\_\_\_\_

4. Your technique will improve provided that you keep practising your scales.



\_\_\_\_\_

5. I can help you with your homework provided that you help me move some furniture next week.



\_\_\_\_\_





## Categorise the clauses

Organise the sentences depending on whether they modify the verb, adjective or adverb.

1. Although Ginny didn't believe the story, she gave the man some money anyway.

2. The judge spoke solemnly in order for the jury to take his words seriously.

3. La Paz's high altitude can be dangerous if you suffer from altitude sickness.

4. The waiter bowed humbly as though he was born for service.

5. Whenever my housemate cooks I silently leave the house.

6. Dad collected the apples before bringing the basket back to the kitchen.

7. With the propellers making a deafening sound, the helicopter landed on the runway

8. The evenings here are beautiful when the stars light up the sky.

9. Felix dropped the phone quickly as though he had been zapped with a shock.

10. We will visit the theater after we have completed our tour.

11. The soldier took cover before the shell roared overhead.

12. When the Prime Minister gets here, we will go to the Press Gallery.

verb

adjective

adverb

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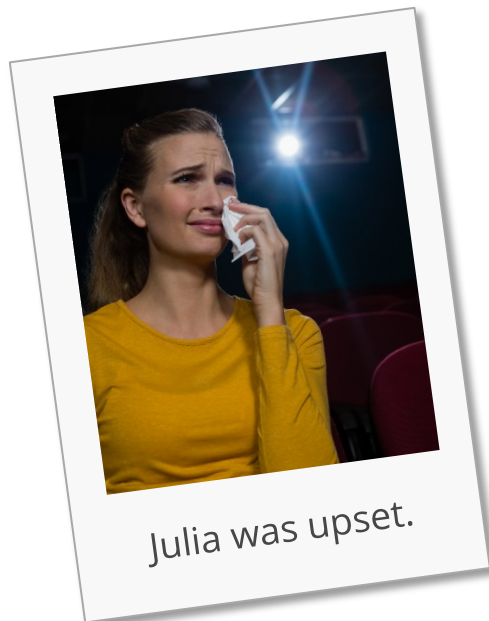
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## Fill in the gaps

Add an adverbial clause to give a different meaning to the image. The subordinating conjunction has been already placed for you.



1 When \_\_\_\_\_, Julia burst into tears.

2 She suddenly felt a wave of anxiety and stress as \_\_\_\_\_

3 Everything would be alright so long as \_\_\_\_\_



## Use adverbial clauses to describe these pictures





## Time

Adverbial clauses answer questions about the verb. They inform us more about an action, answering the questions of **why?**, **when?**, **where?**, and **to what degree?**

Observe how the adverbial clause below refers to the **when**, or the **time** the verb occurred.

The minister waited until the afternoon before she announced her resignation.

- The adverbial clause **...before she announced her resignation** refers to the **time** the verb occurred.





## Place

Adverbial clauses answer questions about the verb. They inform us more about an action, answering the questions of **why?**, **when?**, **where?**, and **to what degree?**

Observe how the adverbial clause below refers to the **where?** or the location.

Johann looked over the field where he could see the distant shapes of animals on the horizon.

- The adverbial clause **...where he could see the distant shapes of animals on the horizon** talks about **location** and **position** – where Johann is looking and what he could see.





## Purpose and contrast

Adverbial clauses can also show **purpose** or **contrast**.

Observe how the adverbial clause below refers to the **why?** or the **purpose**.

I am working on this project **in order to improve my coding skills**.

- This clause shows **purpose**.

**Although the mountains were very beautiful**, I much prefer the sea.

- This clause shows **contrast**.





## Convert these independent clauses into adverbial clauses

1. Brazil is the largest country in South America. Suriname is the smallest.



Brazil is the largest country in South America while Suriname is the smallest.

2. Cathy already made a cake for the party. She is going to the bakery to buy another one.



\_\_\_\_\_

3. Anita usually likes to join in the fun. She doesn't have to work the next day.



\_\_\_\_\_

4. Winston shivered in the hallway. He left his coat at home.



\_\_\_\_\_

5. The company built a dam upriver. The birdlife has started to disappear.



\_\_\_\_\_



## Reason clauses

Adverbial clauses answer questions about the verb. They inform us more about an action, often giving us the **reason** for an action.

We can use the subordinating conjunctions **because**, **since** and **as** to address the question of **why?**

Richard arrived late to his recital because he missed his regular train.

- **Why** was Richard late?
- The answer is in the adverbial clause: **because he missed his regular train.**





## Complete the sentences

**Insert an adverbial clause to explain the “why?” in these sentences.**

1. Frederick decided to sign up to military school \_\_\_\_\_
2. I spent a lot of time preparing for the exam \_\_\_\_\_
3. Fernando watched the crowd carefully \_\_\_\_\_
4. My heart was beating wildly \_\_\_\_\_
5. I decided to book a one-way flight to Santiago \_\_\_\_\_



## Closed for business

The restaurant closed down last Saturday.

- Why did the restaurant shut its doors?
- Use adverbial clauses to add to this sentence, explaining why the restaurant had to close.



because

as

since



## Fill in the gaps with adverbial clauses



Why did you decide to come to Chile?

I wanted to improve my Spanish too. I came to Chile last September \_\_\_\_\_ my girlfriend moved here for work.

I hope so, but her work is very mobile. We will go \_\_\_\_\_ the company needs her.

There are so many things I love about this country. I decided to come here \_\_\_\_\_ I wanted to improve my Spanish. How about you?

Oh that's great. Do you think you will be living here long term \_\_\_\_\_ your girlfriend got the job?



## Roleplay

Using some of the conjunctions and adverbial clauses from the previous activity, have a discussion with your teacher. Try to stick to your assigned role!

I am interested in booking a tour...



Welcome to Amazing Amazon tours...

**Student A: You are booking a tour into the Amazon rainforest, and are determined to get the best price! Negotiate!**

**Student B: You are a tour operator. You know all the tricks in the book tourists make to try and get the price down. Be stubborn!**



## Speaking

If you could travel anywhere, where would you go? Try to use the subordinating conjunctions *because*, *as* and *since* to link adverbial clauses in your response. Remember to explain what is attracting you to these places!





## Write a letter

**Write a letter to your teacher telling them all about your trip to the destination you spoke about in the previous activity. Use three to four adverbial clauses in your writing to add extra detail to your postcard. Length should be 150 – 200 words.**



## Remember!

In some situations you can shorten an adverbial clause to an adverbial phrase. This can be very helpful if you want to shorten your sentences and communicate more concisely.

- In order to shorten adverbial clauses to phrases, **each clause must have the same subject**

Adverbial clause	Adverbial phrase
Though he cared deeply, there was nothing he could do.	Though caring deeply, there was nothing he could do.
Before he dived into the pool, he put on his goggles.	Before diving into the pool, he put on his goggles.
Since I moved in, I have noticed some very strange behaviour.	Since moving in, I have noticed some very strange behaviour.
As I stepped on the train, I thought of my friends back home.	Stepping on the train, I thought of my friends back home.



## Reduce the sentences

1. Though he left the house late, he still made it to the airport in time.

→ Though leaving the house late, he still made it to the airport in time.

2. After she left the gym, Maria drove to the lake for a well-deserved swim.

→ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Although she was suffering from food poisoning, Jane still found the streets of Lima exceedingly pleasant.

→ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. While she was a generous boss, she was very strict with her employees.

→ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. As she didn't want to wake the baby, she left the room quietly.

→ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_





## Over to you

**Choose one of the sentences from the previous reduction activity. Use it to construct the beginning of a story. For an extra challenge try to link your story with the image below!**

A vertical sheet of lined paper with a blue margin on the left and a spiral binding on the left edge. The paper has several horizontal lines for writing.

Remember to  
use adverbial  
clauses!





## In their shoes

**Imagine you and the teacher are each one of the characters in the picture.**

**Discuss what went wrong and try to resolve your problem.**





## Reflect on the lesson

Take a moment to review any new **vocabulary, phrases, language structures** or **grammar points** you have come across for the first time in this lesson.

Review them with your teacher one more time to make sure you don't forget!





## Answer key

### Exercise p. 14

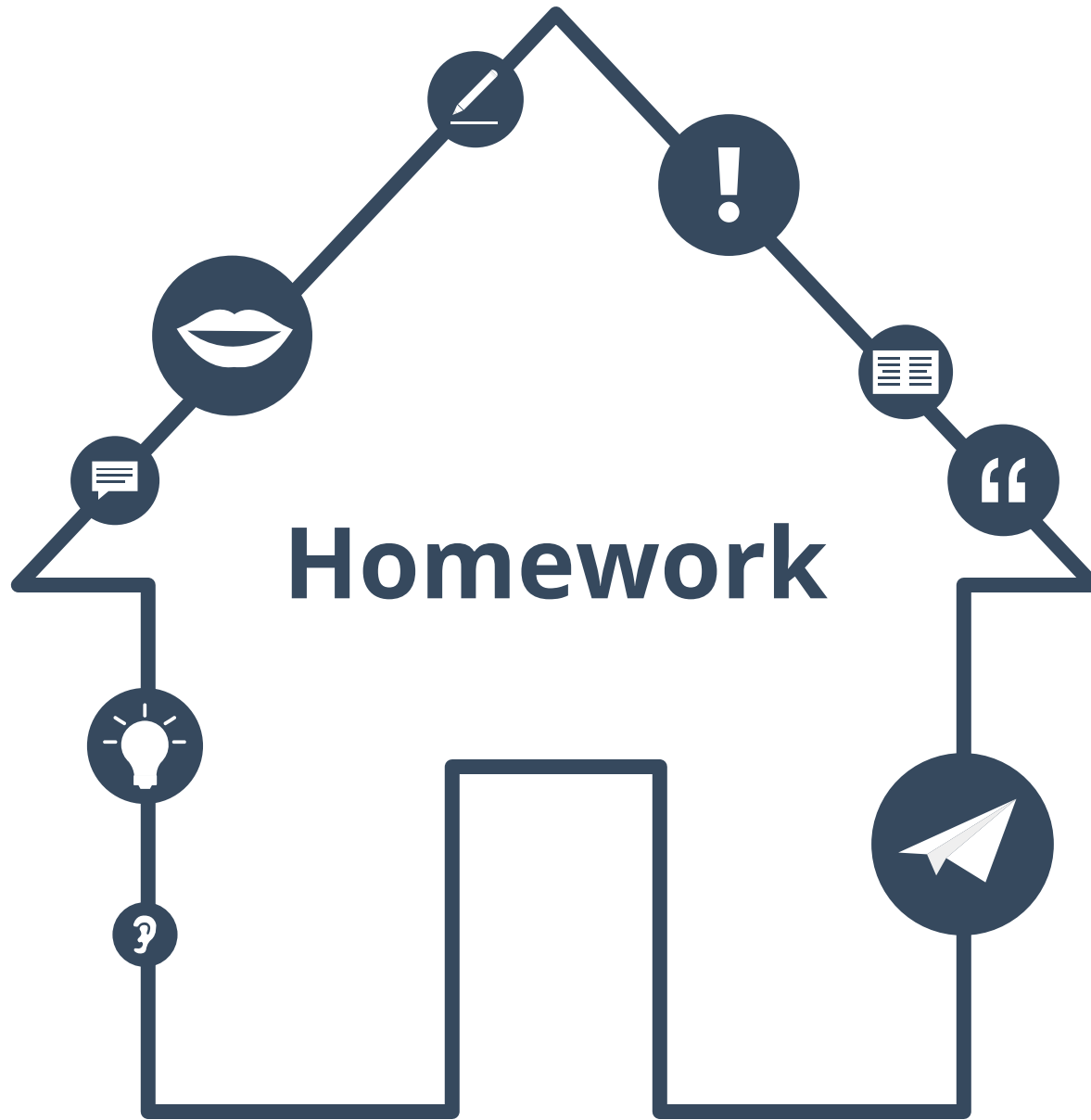
1. After tasting the eggs, Robert decided they needed salt.
2. Summer enjoyed the breakfast even though she wasn't hungry.
3. Although the horn section was terrific, my favourite part of the show was the strings.
4. Fernando decided to cycle home rather than taking the bus with Lisa.
5. If you promise I can bring my friends, I will come to the party.

### Exercise p. 15

2. ...because she couldn't hit the note.
3. ...lest we miss our train.
4. ...provided that you keep practising your scales.
5. ...provided that you help me move some furniture next week.

### Exercise p. 17

- Verbs:** 1, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12  
**Adjectives:** 3, 8  
**Adverbs:** 2, 4, 9





## Matching activity

1. The professor came to Montevideo...

2. After Jean got home from the party...

3. My flight leaves in two hours...

4. Rather than get angry about her colleague's behaviour...

5. Adriane dropped her score on the floor...

6. I can help you make a hearty soup for the conference...

7. This neighbourhood is changing so quickly...

a. ...if you promise to help me with my Spanish homework.

b. ...that I don't even know the people living on my street!

c. ...he collapsed into his bed with exhaustion.

d. ...while the band played on obliviously.

e. ...after he spent some time working at Oxford.

f. ...Jill decided to take a deep breath and ignore her.

g. ...while yours is not until tomorrow morning.



## Emergency!

**Oh no! You had an accident during your trip! You must write an email home to your family/loved ones explaining what happened. The length should be 100 – 150 words. Let them know you are okay!**

-	□	×
To:		
Subject:		
Dear _____,		
What a nightmare! I was really enjoying my trip in...		



## Homework answer key

**Exercise p. 38**  
1e, 2c, 3g, 4f, 5d, 6a, 7b





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