

Tikrit University

College of Education for Humanities

Department of English



Subject: Essay

Class: 3rd

Adverb Clause

Lecturer: Waqas Saadi Ismael (PhD)

2025-2026

An adverb clause is a dependent clause that functions as an adverb. It can tell when, where, why, how, how long, how far, how often, and for what purpose something happened. An adverb clause can also express a contrast.

RELATIONSHIP	ADVERB CLAUSE	INDEPENDENT CLAUSE
Time	Subordinator / As soon as a baby opens its eyes,	it begins to observe its surroundings
Contrast	Subordinator / Although some people are more productive in the morning,	others work better at night.

Notice: the clauses that begin with the words: *whenever, everywhere, since, so that, and even though*. These are adverb clauses.

KINDS OF ADVERB CLAUSES

There are the various kinds of adverb clauses.

- **Time clauses** answer the question "When?"
- **Place clauses** answer the question "Where?"
- **Clauses of manner** answer the question "How?"
- **Distance clauses** answer the question "How far?"
- **Frequency clauses** answer the question "How often?"
- **Purpose clauses** answer the question "For what intention?"
- **Result clauses** answer the question "For what effect?",
- **Conditional clauses** answer the question "Under what circumstance?"
- **Contrast clauses** of direct opposition show how one thing differs from another.
- **Contrast clauses** of concession show an unexpected result.

Punctuation of Adverb Clauses:

The punctuation of an adverb clause depends on the order of the clauses.

When an adverb clause comes first in a sentence, put a comma after it.

ADVERB CLAUSE: Because humans are curious animals,

INDEPENDENT CLAUSE: they constantly explore their world.

Because humans are curious animals, they constantly explore their world.

When an adverb clause follows an independent clause, do not separate the clauses with a comma.

INDEPENDENT CLAUSE: Humans constantly explore their world

ADVERB CLAUSE: because they are curious animals.

Humans constantly explore their world because they are curious animals.

TIME CLAUSES

TIME SUBORDINATORS	EXAMPLES
when : a specific time	When people had to hunt for food, they moved from place to place they moved to another are
whenever : at any time	Whenever food became scarce in one area
while : at the same time	The men hunted game while the women gathered plants.
as soon as : Soon after	Eating habits changed as soon as people stopped moving from place to place in search of food
after : later	After people learned how to grow their own food, they settled in villages.
since : from that time	Since the United States changed from an agricultural to an industrial society, eating habits there have changed.
as : at the same time	People in the United States started eating more processed convenience foods as their lives became busier.
before : earlier	Before people in the United States moved to cities, they grew most of their own food.
until : up to the time.	Women had time to cook meals "from scratch" until they went to work in factories and offices

An adverb time clause tells when the action described in the independent clause took place. The action in a time clause can occur at the same time or at a different time. Be aware that verbs in time clauses often take forms that you do not expect. For example, the verb in a future time clause uses a present form, not a future form. A time clause can come before or after an independent clause. A time clause is introduced by one of the subordinators in the chart.

PLACE CLAUSES

An adverb place clause tells where the action described by the main verb took place. "The subordinators **wherever**, **everywhere**, and **anywhere** are similar in meaning and are interchangeable. You can begin a sentence with **wherever**, **everywhere**, and **anywhere** clauses, but usually not with a where clause. (Expressions such as these are exceptions: Where there is lightning, there is thunder. Where there is smoke, there is fire.)

PLACE SUBORDINATORS	EXAMPLES
where: a specific place	Most people shop where they get the lowest prices
wherever: any place	I pay by credit card wherever I can
everywhere: every place	Can you use an ATM card everywhere you shop
anywhere: any place	Anywhere you go, you hear people talking on their cell phones

DISTANCE, FREQUENCY, AND MANNER CLAUSES

Adverb clauses of distance answer the question "How far?" Adverb clauses of frequency answer the question "How often?" Adverb clauses of manner answer the question "How?" Distance, frequency, and most (but not all) manner clauses follow the independent clause.

DISTANCE, FREQUENCY, AND MANNER SUBORDINATORS	EXAMPLES
as + (adverb) + as: distance	Fire had destroyed the trees in the forest as far as the eye could see.
as + (adverb) + as: frequency	I do not visit my parents as often as they would like me to.
as: manner	We mixed the chemicals exactly as the lab instructor had told us to.
as + (adverb) + as: manner	Our instructor asked us questionnaire as carefully as we could. fill out the
as though: manner	The bus's engine sounds as if / as though it is going to stall at any moment.

Notes

In informal spoken English, people often use **like** in place of **as if** and **as though**. **Like** is not correct in formal written English, so use only **as if** and **as though**.

FORMAL: It looks **as if** it is going to rain.

INFORMAL: It looks **like** it is going to rain.

REASON CLAUSES

An adverb reason clause answers the question "Why?" A reason clause can come before or after the independent clause in a sentence.

REASON SUBORDINATORS	EXAMPLES
because	Europeans are in some ways better environmentalists than North Americans because they are more used to conserving energy.
since	Since many Europeans live, work, and shop in the same locale, they are quite accustomed to riding bicycles, trains, and streetcars to get around.
as	As the price of gasoline has always been quite high in Europe, most Europeans drive high-mileage automobiles that use less fuel.

RESULT CLAUSES

An adverb result clause expresses the effect or consequence of the information in the independent clause. A result clause follows the independent clause in a sentence.

RESULT SUBORDINATORS	EXAMPLES
so + (adjective / adverb) + that	Joanne's cookie business is so successful that she hired three new employees last week New orders are coming in so rapidly that she has expanded her production facilities.
such (a / a[n]) + (noun) + that	Joanne's cookies are such a success that she is considering franchising the business
So much / many + (noun) + that	Running the business takes so much time now that Joanne no longer does the baking herself. There were so many orders for her holiday cookies that her workers were baking 24 hours a day
so little / few + (noun) + that	Joanne's employees have so little free time that they are beginning to complain. Her cookies contain so few calories that even people on diets can enjoy them.

PURPOSE CLAUSES

An adverb purpose clause states the purpose of the action in the independent clause. A purpose normally follows the independent clause, but you may put it at the beginning of a sentence if you want to especially emphasize it.

PURPOSE SUBORDINATORS	EXAMPLES
so that	Farmers use chemical pesticides so that they can get higher crop yields.
in order that	In order that consumers can enjoy unblemished? fruits and vegetables, farmers also spray their fields

Notes

- *In order that* is formal.
- The modals may / might, can /could, will / would, or have to usually Occur in a purpose clause.
- We often use the phrase in order to + a base verb or simply to + a base verb when the subjects of both the independent clause and the purpose clause are the same person or thing. We prefer to+ verb over in order to + verb because it is shorter. The first example above could be written as follows because the two subjects (farmers and they) refer to the same people. Farmers use chemical pesticides in order to get higher crop fields. Farmers use chemical pesticides to get higher crop fields. In the second example, the two subjects (farmers and consumers) are different, so it is not possible to use an in order to + verb or a to + verb phrase.

CONTRAST CLAUSES

There are two types of adverb clauses that express contrast: direct opposition clauses and concession clauses.

Direct Opposition Clauses

In this type, the information in the adverb clause and the information in the independent clause are in direct contrast. Note that the subordinators while and whereas have the same meaning and are interchangeable.

DIRECT OPPOSITION SUBORDINATORS	EXAMPLES
whereas	San Francisco is cool during the summer, whereas Los Angeles is generally hot
while	While most homes in San Francisco do not have air conditioning, it is a necessity in Los Angeles

Notes

- Use a comma between the two clauses no matter which order they are in. (This is an exception to the comma rule for adverb clauses.)
- Since the two ideas are exact opposites, you can put the subordinator with either clause, and the clauses can be in either order. Thus, the examples can be written in four ways with no change in meaning:

San Francisco is cool during the summer, whereas Los Angeles is generally hot.

Whereas Los Angeles is generally hot during the summer, San Francisco is cool.

While San Francisco is cool during the summer, Los Angeles is generally hot.

Los Angeles is generally hot during the summer, while San Francisco is cool. Adverb

Concession (Unexpected Result) Clauses

A concession clause means "This idea is true, but the idea in the independent clause is more important." These clauses are sometimes called "unexpected result" clauses because the information in the independent clause is surprising or unexpected based on the information given in the concession clause.

CONCESSION SUBORDINATORS	EXAMPLES
although	Although I had studied all night, I failed the test.
even though	Our house is quite comfortable even though it is small.
though	Though the citizens had despised the old regime, they disliked the new government even more.

Notes

- Although, even though, and though have almost the same meaning. Though is less formal. Even though is a little stronger than although.
- Some writers follow the normal comma rule for adverb clauses: Use a comma only when the concession clause comes before the independent clause. Other writers use a comma between the two clauses no matter which order they are in.
- Be careful about which clause you use the subordinator with. Sometimes you can use it with either clause, but not always.

CORRECT He loves sports cars, although he drives a sedan.

CORRECT Although he loves sports cars, he drives a sedan.

CORRECT I went swimming, even though the water was freezing.

NOT POSSIBLE Even though I went swimming, the water was freezing.

CONDITIONAL CLAUSES

A conditional clause states a condition for a result to happen or not happen. In the sentence If it rains tomorrow, we will not go to the beach, the condition is the weather. The result is going or not going to the beach. A conditional clause can come before or after an independent clause.

CONDITIONAL SUBORDINATORS	EXAMPLES
If	If you study, you will get good grades. If The mayor would have lost the election if the labor unions had not supported him.
unless	Unless you study, you will not get good grades. The mayor cannot govern unless the labor unions support him.