

## Adverb Clauses

An adverb clause is a subordinate clause that is used as an adverb to modify a verb, an adjective, or an adverb.

*Modifying a Verb*      The sheriff posted the notice *where everyone could see it*.

*Modifying an Adjective*      In cooking class we learned that dough is ready *when it has risen*.

*Modifying an Adverb*      The jet flew faster *than you can imagine*.

Like adverbs, adverb clauses tell *where, when, why, how,* or *to what extent* about words they modify. Adverb clauses can also explain *under what circumstances*.

*If demand exceeds supply*, prices will go up. (Go up *under what circumstances?*)

He lost the debate *because he was not prepared*. (Lost *why?*)

Like verbs, verbals also may be modified by an adverb clause.

*Modifying an Infinitive*      Erin wants to visit Ireland *so that she can kiss the Blarney stone*. (Why?)

*Modifying a Participle*      Waiting *until the nurse slept*, Juliet drank the bitter-tasting potion. (Under what circumstances?)

*Modifying a Gerund*      Guessing *if you don't know the answer* may help improve your test score. (Under what circumstances?)

**Words Used to Introduce Adverb Clauses** Adverb clauses begin with subordinating conjunctions. A **subordinating conjunction** relates the clause to the word it modifies.

*Time*      after, as, as soon as, before, since, until, when, whenever, while

*Cause*      because, since

*Comparison*      as, as much as, than

*Condition*      although, as long as, even though, provided that, unless

*Purpose*      in order that, so that

*Manner*      as, as if, as though

*Place*      where, wherever

## Writing TIP

Writers use subordinating conjunctions to establish a specific relationship between the ideas expressed in a sentence.

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Manner	as, as if, as though
Place	where, wherever

**Elliptical Clauses** *Elliptical* comes from *ellipsis*, which means "omission of a word or words." An **elliptical clause** is an adverb clause from which a word or words have been omitted.

*When applying for a job*, you should dress appropriately. (The words *you are* have been omitted: when *you are* applying.)  
You seem happier with the results *than I*. (The word *do* has been omitted: than I *do*.)

**Punctuation Note** An adverb clause at the beginning of a sentence is followed by a comma.

**Sentence Diagramming** For information about diagramming adverb clauses, see page 867.

## Practice Your Skills

### A. CONCEPT CHECK

**Adverb Clauses and Subordinating Conjunctions** Write the adverb clauses in the following sentences. Underline the subordinating conjunction in each clause. After each clause write the word or words that it modifies.

**Example** Whenever drought is a problem, people hope for rain.

Whenever drought is a problem, hope

1. Even though it seems difficult or impossible, humans have long tried to make rain.
2. When an ancient rainmaker cast a spell, people could not always count on rain.
3. More recent "pluviologists" have proved no better at the task than the ancient rainmakers were.
4. One rainmaker was almost lynched because he "caused" a twenty-inch rain and washed out a dam.
5. Until Vincent Schaefer had a happy accident, rainmaking remained a hoax.
6. Seeding clouds so that drops of water would form had been tried by many different scientists.
7. Would seeding work if the temperature of the clouds were below freezing?
8. After Schaefer tried out this idea in a series of almost comical experiments with his home freezer, he succeeded.
9. One day, as he was putting a block of dry ice into the freezer, Schaefer exhaled.
10. Soon his improvised laboratory looked as if a miniature snowstorm were in progress.

## Writing TIP

Writers use subordinating conjunctions to establish a specific relationship between the ideas expressed in a sentence.

## B. DRAFTING SKILL

**Using Adverb Clauses** Sometimes you can vary your sentence structure by combining sentences and using adverb clauses. For each sentence or set of sentences below, follow the directions given in parentheses.

1. Deserts are found in two belts to the north and south of the equator. (Add a "where" adverb clause to explain that deserts occur in areas with little rainfall.)
2. Winds carry hot air away from the doldrums at the equator. The air eventually reaches the tropics. (Combine the sentences by using *until*.)
3. The tropics are cooler than the equator. They get less direct sun. (Combine the sentences by using *because*.)
4. Therefore, the air from the equator is cooled. (Add a "when" adverb clause explaining that the cooling of the air occurs on its arrival in the tropics.)
5. The water vapor in cooler air condenses. Rain falls on the tropics. (Combine the sentences by using *because*.)
6. The air passes the tropics. It has already lost much of its moisture. (Combine the sentences by using *when*.)
7. That is why the deserts farther from the equator than the tropics do not receive as much rain. (Expand the sentence by adding the adverb clause *as the tropics do* to complete the comparison.)
8. Similarly, a cold current in the Pacific Ocean causes winds to dry out before they reach the Atacama Desert in South America. The Atacama Desert borders the Pacific Ocean. (Combine the sentences by using *even though*.)
9. The rain does not fall. These areas of the world will remain dry. (Combine the sentences by adding *As long as* to the first sentence.)
10. Nonetheless, these deserts do manage to support life. (Add an adverb clause beginning with *provided that*. In the clause explain that for these deserts to support life, some small yearly amount of rain must fall.)

## C. APPLICATION IN WRITING

**A Setting** Imagine that you are writing a science-fiction story about a torrential downpour that never ends. As you write about the increasingly strange, dangerous, and unexpected occurrences that are part of this ongoing storm, establish the setting by using adverb clauses to tell *where, when, why, how, to what extent*, and *under what circumstances* each event you are describing takes place.

## Noun Clauses

**A noun clause is a subordinate clause that is used in a sentence as a noun.**

A noun clause may be used in any way that a noun is used. Consequently, noun clauses most frequently function as subjects, direct objects, indirect objects, predicate nominatives, and objects of prepositions.

Subject	Where the hostages are remains a mystery to the police.
Direct Object	Hoyle believed that his theory would revolutionize the study of the universe.
Indirect Object	Give whoever comes in last a prize.
Predicate Nominative	My question is how do I load this computer program?
Object of a Preposition	We have to limit expenses to whatever funds are available.

A noun clause may function as the direct object of a verbal.

Alice tried to decide *if she had been dreaming*. (The noun clause is the direct object of the infinitive *to decide*.)

Henry VIII had no trouble deciding *whether he should remarry*. (The noun clause is the direct object of the gerund *deciding*.)

**Words Used to Introduce Noun Clauses** Noun clauses are introduced by pronouns and by subordinating conjunctions.

**Pronouns** who, whom, which, what, that, whoever, whomever, whatever

A pronoun that introduces a noun clause may also function as a subject or an object within the clause.

The American Red Cross provides shelter and emergency relief aid for *whoever needs it*. (*Whoever* is the subject of the verb *needs* in the noun clause.)

**Subordinating Conjunctions** how, that, when, where, whether, why (For a complete list of subordinating conjunctions, see page 555.)

Notice that some of the same words that introduce noun clauses can also introduce adjective and adverb clauses. To determine whether a clause is functioning as a noun, decide if the clause is doing the job of a noun in the sentence. In the first example on the next page, the clause is a noun clause because it is functioning as a

direct object. The clauses in the second and third examples are modifying other words; therefore, they are not functioning as noun clauses.

The orchestra conductor announced *when the concert would begin*. (Announced *what*? The noun clause is the direct object of the verb *announced*.)

This is the time of year *when the Canada geese fly over*. (*Which* time? The adjective clause modifies the noun *time*.)

The engine knocks *when you use low-octane gas*. (Knocks *when*? The adverb clause modifies the verb *knocks*.)

Sometimes the introductory word is omitted from a noun clause.

The report said *unemployment is at an all-time low*. (The report said *that* unemployment is at an all-time low.)

**Sentence Diagraming** For information on diagraming noun clauses, see page 867.

## Practice Your Skills

### A. CONCEPT CHECK

**Identifying Noun Clauses** Write the noun clauses in the following quotations. Tell how each clause functions in the sentence by writing *Subject*, *Object of a Verb*, *Object of a Preposition*, or *Predicate Nominative*.

- Genius does what it must, and talent does what it can.  
Owen Meredith
- I regret that I have but one life to give for my country.  
Nathan Hale
- Don't invent with your mouth what you don't see with a smile.  
Mother Teresa
- Whoever gossips to you will gossip about you. Spanish proverb
- The best way to be thankful is to make use of what the gods have given you.  
Anthony Trollope
- What is wanted is not more law, but a better public opinion.  
James G. Blaine
- A Bill of Rights is what the people are entitled to.  
Thomas Jefferson
- Paradise is where I am.  
Voltaire
- Remember that time is money.  
Benjamin Franklin
- Whoever does not rise early will never do any good.  
Samuel Johnson

**Writing Theme**  
Wise Advice

## B. DRAFTING SKILLS

### Using Noun Clauses

the second column  
the noun clause is  
a *Subject*, *Indirect Object*,  
or *Predicate Nominative*

- you are
- fights imaginary
- give \_\_\_\_\_ to  
the doubt
- should never be
- it's not whom you
- has no friends
- one must do this
- all parents think
- peace of mind is
- don't hide

## C. APPLICATION IN WRITING

### An Advice Column

or someone else you  
that his or her grade  
discusses the consequences  
noun clauses.

A. Write the italicized noun clause in each sentence. Tell whether each clause functions as *Subject*, *Object of a Verb*, *Object of a Preposition*, or *Predicate Nominative*.

- In the far western part of the United States* formed a nation of independent states.
- Actually, *people have been living in the area for a long time*.
- Basalt temples on the islands of the Pacific *formed a part of a highly civilized society in the region*.
- Administered by the United States* for many years, the islands have not interfered with the independence of the islands.
- Spaniards claimed that the islands were theirs* and not interfere with the independence of the islands.
- In 1899, Germany became a part of the United States.