**ADVERBIAL CLAUSE**

**Adverbial clause:** is a clause that acts as an **adverbial** in the main clause or sentence it belongs to. Adverbial clauses can be said to modify the rest of the main clause – that is, they add extra information in terms of time, condition, concession, cause or reason, result and so on.

* She suddenly left ***when the police entered the building.***

The adverbial clause *when the police entered the building* tells us more about the circumstances in which she left: it is an adverbial of time, answering the question *When did she leave?*

While acting as an adverbial in the main clause, the adverbial clause also contains its own clause elements: *the police* (**subject**), *entered* (**verb phrase**) and *the building* (**object**). In addition, most adverbial clauses begin with a **conjunction**, signaling their link with the main clause

Adverbial clauses are typically mobile, and can occur either before or after the other elements of the main clause. When placed at the beginning, they require a comma to offset them from the rest of the sentence:

***Whether you like it or not***, you have to go.

***If you feel ill*,** you should lie down.

However, when the adverb clause is at the end of a sentence, no comma is needed:

She enjoyed the party more ***than he did.***

You should lie down ***if you feel ill***.

* **Functions**

Subordinating conjunctions have different functions depending on the ideas being modified. We can therefore identify the function of an adverbial clause by looking at the type of subordinating conjunction connecting it to the main clause.

The table below highlights the various functions of some of the most common subordinating conjunctions:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Idea Being Modified** | **Subordinating Conjunction** |
| Time | when, whenever, while, before, after, since, until, once |
| Place | where, wherever, everywhere, anywhere |
| Reason or purpose | because, as, since, so |
| Condition | if, unless, whether or not, in the event, provided |
| Comparison or manner | like, as, as… as, as if, the way, than |
| Contrast | though, although, even though, whereas, even if |

1. **Adverbial clauses of time**

An adverbial clause of time describes *when* or *for how long* something has occurred or will occur. Possible subordinating conjunctions include *when, whenever, while, before, after, since, until*, and *once*. For example:

* “I will arrive ***when* dinner is ready**.”
* “He said he’ll go ***whenever* you decide it’s time to leave**.”
* “Animals are cute ***while* they’re young**.”
* “***Before* you leave**, let me give you a kiss.”
* “Teachers grade papers ***after* the students go home for the day**.”
* “I have loved you ***since* the day I met you**.”
* “She waited on the shore ***until* the ship departed**.”
* “The bully stopped picking fights ***once* he realized it was wrong**.”

(\*Be careful with the subordinating conjunction *since*, because it is also used with adverbial clauses of reason or purpose, as we will see below.)

1. **Adverbial clauses of place**

An adverbial clause of place describes *where* something has occurred or will occur. The most common subordinating conjunctions are *where, wherever, everywhere*, and *anywhere*. For example:

* “Grandma and Grandpa want to go ***where* their children live**.”
* “I can go ***wherever* I want to go**.”
* “Peter brings his sunglasses ***everywhere* he goes**.”
* “Birds create nests ***anywhere* they deem suitable**.”

1. **Adverbial clauses of reason or purpose**

An adverbial clause of reason or purpose describes *why* something has occurred or will occur. Common subordinating conjunctions are *because, as, since*, and *so*. For example:

* “I admire you ***because* you are an inspiration to many people**.”
* “***As* it is raining**, we probably shouldn’t go to the park today.”
* “I’m going outside to play ***since* my homework is finished**.”\*
* “He went to his room ***so* he could be alone**.”

(\*Be careful with the subordinating conjunction *since*, because it is also used with adverbial clauses of time, as we saw above.)

1. **Adverbial clauses of condition**

Adverbial clauses of condition describe the conditions necessary for specific actions or events to happen. This type of clause usually employs the subordinating conjunctions *if, unless, whether or not, in the event*, and *provided*. For example:

* “***If* it snows tonight**, I’m not going to work tomorrow.”
* “Kate can’t attend the school dance ***unless* her parents allow it**.”
* “He’s always doing crazy stunts ***whether or not* they’re considered safe**.”
* “***In the event* of a hurricane**, you must stay inside.”
* “They’ll approve your request ***provided* you pay the appropriate amount of money**.”

1. **Adverbial clauses of comparison or manner**

An adverbial clause of comparison or manner describes *how* or *in what manner* something occurred or will occur, to what degree something occurred or will occur, or how something compares to something else. Some of the most often used subordinating conjunctions are *like, as, as … as, as if, the way*, and *than*. For example:

* “He sings ***like* he wants to be a rock star**.”
* “The teary-eyed friends embraced ***as* long-lost siblings would**.”
* “The freshly picked flower is ***as*** beautiful ***as* it is soft**.”
* “She looked excited, ***as if* she could jump up and dance at any moment**.”
* “Lauren walks confidently, ***the way* a model struts on a runway**.”
* “Tim is more nervous ***than* Rhonda is**.”

1. **Adverbial clauses of contrast**

An adverbial clause of contrast describes something that differs from or contrasts with an idea expressed in the main clause. Commonly used subordinating conjunctions include *though, although, even though, whereas*, and *even if*. For example:

* “***Though* the sun is out**, the wind is very chilly.”
* “***Although* she doesn’t have much money**, Wendy often goes traveling.”
* “I do this job ***even though* I hate it**.”
* “Babies look at the world with innocence, ***whereas* adults look at it with experience**.”
* “Matt will go to college, ***even if* it means taking out student loans**.”

**Homework**

Identify the type of the dependent clauses, and then name their functions.

1- When I was in town, I met your sister, who was shopping for some cloths.

2- The new manager I met last week seems to be a very capable woman.

3- Mozart could write music since he was only five

4- I can’t think of any good films at the moments that I would like to see.

5- I can’t guarantee she will be there on time

6- Those young, patriotic men, who rushed to the enlistment centers, had no idea.

7- The village of Blaydon, where I lived as a child, has now become part of the town

8- It hurts when I laugh

9- While Ann was in the hospital, she had a visit from her teacher

10- It did not seem possible that he could be mistaken

11- I will ask when the next train is

12- The truth is I can’t get on with my flat-mates

13- Which route would be best isn’t obvious

14- The government is looking into what needs to be done

15- The news that the plane had crashed came as a terrible shock

16- Since no one asked me, I did not tell them

17- The architect who designed those flats does not live here

18- The driver of the car that hits a tree is killed

19- It is the same actor we saw at the theater

20- Tania is someone whose courage I admire