

Elliptical Clauses

17f. An **adverb clause** is a subordinate clause that modifies a verb, an adjective, or an adverb.

17g. Part of a clause may be left out when its meaning can be clearly understood from the context of the sentence. Such a clause is called an **elliptical clause**.

In the examples below, the bracketed words may be omitted because the meaning of the clause is clear without them.

EXAMPLES Although [she was] tired, the soldier remained at her post.

Luggage should be routinely transferred once [it has been] tagged with a final destination sticker.

Can they bring supplies to you sooner than I [can]?

Can they bring supplies to you sooner than [they can bring supplies to] me?

EXERCISE A In each of the following sentences, underline the elliptical clause.

Example 1. Since you understand this law better than even I, please explain it to the rest of our study group.

1. While taking trumpet lessons, Darla had learned several march tunes.
2. Please leave all other books and materials under your desks until finished with the test.
3. Should our express mail package arrive sooner than the one shipped first class?
4. Although in a hurry, Ahmed took time to stretch.
5. My mother has always baked a tastier blueberry muffin than I.
6. Though lost for a week, my algebra book finally turned up in our classroom.
7. For the final challenge, Cameron had to slice more onions than we.
8. How could their petition receive so many more signatures than ours?
9. Since using an irrigation system, Ruben has harvested ten percent more corn per acre.
10. Even though I play fewer video games than some teenagers, I still could follow Suki's strategy.

EXERCISE B In each of the following sentences, underline the elliptical clause. Then, insert a caret (^) and write above it the words that are missing.

Example 1. Who knows as much as Gina^{knows} about making scenery?

11. At the restaurant, Chester and Erin ate more salad than I.
12. Once repaired, the tire held air pressure very well.
13. Can squirrels eat as much birdseed out of a feeder as raccoons?
14. The waves surprised me more than her.
15. Because of heavy evening traffic, air rescue arrived sooner than the ground team.