

The Adverb Clause B

15e. An **adverb clause** is a subordinate clause that modifies a verb, an adjective, or an adverb.

An adverb clause tells *where, when, how, why, to what extent, or under what condition*. An adverb clause is introduced by a **subordinating conjunction**—a word or word group that shows the relationship between the adverb clause and the word or words the clause modifies. Common subordinating conjunctions include *although, as, because, if, since, so that, than, unless, until, when, where, and while*.

EXAMPLES **As the storm clouds gathered**, a waterspout formed over the bay. [The adverb clause modifies the verb *formed*, telling *when*.]

Brad can run faster **than anyone else on the track team can**. [The adverb clause modifies the adverb *faster*, telling *to what extent*.]

EXERCISE A In each of the following sentences, underline the adverb clause and circle the word or words it modifies.

Example 1. After I had locked the door behind me, I realized I had left my keys inside the house.

1. Please read whenever you like.
2. Regis looked as though he had been caught in a rainstorm.
3. None of you should build a campfire until you have learned the proper technique.
4. If your uncle comes to the reunion tomorrow, ask him about his experiences in Indonesia.
5. Paolo mixed the pancake batter carefully so that there wouldn't be any lumps.
6. Ever since James hiked the Appalachian Trail, he has been in better shape.
7. We traveled slowly unless we were forced to go faster.
8. Although she wrote a book set in the Galápagos Islands, she has never been there.
9. After the rainstorm ended, the droplets on the leaves of the trees sparkled like diamonds.
10. I recited the poem more dramatically than she did.

EXERCISE B Underline the adverb clause in each of the following sentences. Then, circle the subordinating conjunction.

Example 1. The cat won't do tricks unless you give it treats.

11. Until Maya brings the eggplant, we won't be able to start dinner.
12. Clarence is a much better bicycle mechanic than I am.
13. The cat batted its toy mouse under the refrigerator so that no one could reach it.
14. Vladimir played the piano as though his life depended on it.
15. Because the sky is clear, we will have a good view of the meteor shower.