

Adverb Clauses: dependent clauses that function as adverbs

What is an Adverb Clause?

These clauses usually identify when, why, where, how, how long, how far, how often and for what purpose something happens.

There are many different kinds of adverb clauses. Some types of adverb clauses include time, place, manner, distance, frequency, reason, purpose, and concession.

Adverb Clauses: Building Blocks for Complex Sentences

Dependent Adverb Clauses are connected to (main) independent clauses in complex sentences.

1. Dependent: A clause that cannot stand by itself. It depends on something else, an independent clause, for its meaning. A dependent adverb clause trying to stand by itself would be a sentence fragment.

2. Independent: A clause that can stand by itself and still make sense. An independent clause could be its own sentence, but is often part of a larger structure, combined with other independent clauses and with dependent clauses.

Adverb Clauses: Building Blocks for Complex Sentences

And here are some examples of adverb clauses

1. Adverb clauses:

- When the baseball team went to Arizona,
- Whenever writing an essay,
- After the girls attended the graduation ceremony....
- Because the Malaysian student always spoke English at home,

These clauses are all dependent upon a main clause.

Adverb Clauses: Building Blocks for Complex Sentences

Notice that this sentence consists of a very brief independent clause followed by a long and complex adverb clause.

• **Most students shop** where they can have fun and get the cheapest prices for food products from their own country.

The dependent adverb clause begins with what is called a subordinating conjunction. This causes the clause to be dependent upon the rest of the sentence for its meaning; it cannot stand by itself.

More on different types of adverb clauses in a moment. . . .

Adverb Clauses: Building Blocks for Complex Sentences

And here are some examples of various adverb clauses

1. Time clauses: Tells when the action in the independent clause took place. Can come before or after the independent clause.

- When the baseball team went to Arizona,
- Whenever writing an essay,
- While the girls attended the graduation ceremony....
- After the instructor assigned the final cause and effect essay,
-until the pizza arrived on Friday night.

These clauses are all dependent upon a main clause.

Adverb Clauses: Building Blocks for Complex Sentences

And here are some examples of various adverb clauses

1. Place clauses: Tells where the action described by the main verb took place. Can usually come before or after the independent clause.

- ... where they get the lowest prices.

- ... wherever they can.

- ... everywhere you shop.

- Anywhere you go,

These clauses are all dependent upon a main clause.

Adverb Clauses: Building Blocks for Complex Sentences

And here are some examples of various adverb clauses

1. Distance, frequency, and manner clauses: **answer the questions how far?, how often?, and how?** Most of these types of clause follow the independent clause.

- ... as far as **the eye could see.**
- ...as often as **they would like me to.**
- ... as **the lab instructor had told us to.**
- ... as carefully as **we could.**
- ... as if **it is going to break down at any minute.**

These clauses are all dependent upon a main clause.

Adverb Clauses: Building Blocks for Complex Sentences

And here are some examples of various adverb clauses

1. Reason clauses: Answers the question “Why?”. Can come before or after the independent clause.

- ... **because the world is running out of natural resources.**
- ... **since it costs less to produce recycled newsprint than to manufacture brand new paper.**
- ... **as it takes far more energy to produce one ton of new aluminum than it does to recycle one ton of this metal.**

These clauses are all dependent upon a main clause.

Adverb Clauses: Building Blocks for Complex Sentences

And here are some examples of various adverb clauses

1. Result clauses: Result clauses express the effect or consequence of the information in the independent clause. Comes after the independent clause.

- ... so effective that the forests in Canada have actually been increasing in size over the last decade.
- ... such a success that profits of Canadian newsprint recyclers have doubled over the last three years.
- ... so much aluminum has been recycled that the plans for a new hydro-electric dam have been delayed.

These clauses are all dependent upon a main clause.

Clauses: Building Blocks for Sentences

Dependent clauses can be identified and classified according to their role in the sentence.

ADVERB CLAUSES tend to tell us something about the sentence's main verb: when, why, under what conditions.

- After doctors discovered the causes for anorexia nervosa, they have been developing new treatment methods.
- Canadian newsprint manufactures started recycling because it was more profitable for them to do so.

Notice how the dependent clauses begin with “dependent words,” words that subordinate what follows to the rest of the sentence. These words are also called subordinating conjunctions.

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