

Department of English

Module: Grammar

Level: First Year Students (Group 6 & 8)

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### Adverbial Clauses

#### Objectives

At the end of the lecture, students are expected to:

- Identify the different types of adverbial clauses.
- Indicate the function of adverbial clauses with regard to their types.

Adverbial clauses are subordinate clauses that act as adverbs in the sentence by modifying verbs in independent clauses (Oshima & Hogue, 1998).

- Because scientists are interested in the planets, they send spacecraft to orbit them.
- Scientists send spacecraft to orbit the planets so that humans can learn more about the universe.

It should be noted that adverbial clauses can even establish a kind of coherence within sentences (Jingxia, 2015).

**Note:** An adverb clause, as pointed by Oshima and Hogue (1998), takes two different positions. When it comes at the beginning, a comma is put to separate it from the main clause (example1). If such clause is written after the main clause, no comma is needed in such case (example 2).

#### Types of adverbial Clauses

Here are the common types of adverbial clauses, as explained and exemplified by Oshima and Hogue (1998, 2006).

##### 1. Adverb Clauses of Time

Adverb time clauses give information about the time when an action happens. They are often introduced by some conjunctions like 'when', 'while',

‘whenever’, ‘as soon as’, ‘since’, ‘before’, ‘after’, ‘until’, ‘as’:

- After people learned how to grow their own food, they settled in villages.

*Here the clause ‘after people learned how to grow their own food’ is an adverbial clause that **functions** as an adverb of time that modifies the verb ‘settled’ in the independent/ main clause.*

-Whenever food became scarce in one area, they moved to another area.

-Everyone should know what to do when an earthquake strikes.

## **2. Adverbial Clauses of Place**

Adverb clauses of place show the place where actions related to main verbs happen. The conjunctions ‘where’, ‘wherever’, and ‘everywhere’ and ‘anywhere’ are examples to introduce such clauses.

-Most people shop where they get the lowest prices.

-I pay by credit card wherever I can.

## **3. Adverbial Clauses of Manner**

This type of clauses shows the manner of doing something and answers the question ‘how’. The conjunctions ‘like’, ‘as though’ or ‘as if’ usually introduce such clauses.

- Our instructor asked us to fill out the questionnaire as carefully as we could.

- The bus’s engine sounds as if/ as though it is going to stall at any moment.

## **4. Adverbial Clauses of Reason**

A clause of cause points to the reason behind doing something via responding to ‘why’ question. It starts with some conjunctions like ‘because’, ‘as’, and ‘since’:

-Europeans are in some ways better environmentalists than North Americans because they are more used to conserving energy.

-As the price of gasoline has always been quite high in Europe, most Europeans drive high-mileage automobiles that use less fuel.

## **5. Adverbial Clauses of Result**

Clauses of result give information about the result of what was already mentioned in the main clause. Examples of subordinating conjunctions that begin them include ‘so...that’, and ‘such...that’.

-Joanna’s cookie business is so successful that she hired three new employees last week.

-Joanne's cookies are such a success that she is considering franchising the business.

## **6. Adverbial Clauses of Purpose**

An adverbial clause of purpose, by definition, show the purpose behind the action in the main clause. The conjunctions ‘in order that’ and ‘so that’ are common conjunctions used as the following examples show:

-Farmers use chemical pesticides so that they can get higher crop yields.

-In order that consumers can enjoy unblemished fruits and vegetables, farmers also spray their fields.

## **7. Adverbial Clauses of Concession**

Adverbial clauses of concession describe an action not expected in the main clause. They often start with ‘thought’, ‘although’, ‘even though’. These are some examples.

-Although I had studied all night, I failed the test.

-Our house is quite comfortable even though it is small.

## **8. Adverbial Clauses of Condition**

Oshima and Hogue (2006) added the type of conditional adverbial clauses. The latter show the right condition for actions to occur. These clauses often begin with ‘if’ or ‘unless’:

-If you study, you will get good grades.

- The mayor cannot govern unless the labor unions support him.

Note that an adverbial clause functions as an adverb (depending on its type; of time, reason, result,...).

## Practice with Adverbial Clauses

**Exercise 1:** Identify the adverbial clauses in each example and indicate their functions.

1. Since the United States changed from an agricultural to an industrial society, eating habits there have changed.
2. Anywhere you go, you hear people talking on their cell phones.
3. Can you use an ATM card everywhere you shop?
4. New textbooks are so expensive that many students buy used ones.
5. Women had time to cook meals “from scratch” until they went to work in factories and offices.
6. Farmers spray their fields in order that consumers might enjoy unblemished fruits and vegetables.
7. I went swimming, even though the water was freezing.
8. The library is such a big place that I couldn’t find the book I needed.
9. Kathleen spoke as if (as though) she were an authority on the subject.
10. Since many Europeans live, work, and shop in the same locale, they are quite accustomed to riding bicycles, trains, and streetcars to get around.
11. Though the citizens had despised the old regime, they disliked the new government even more.

**Exercise 2.** Fill in the blanks with the suitable conjunction. There may be more than one correct answer:

(TIME)

1. ....I was eating, the fire alarm rang suddenly.
2. I came .....I heard the news.
3. We can wait here .....the rain stops.
4. What did you do .....leaving school?
5. We saw Ann .....we were waiting for the bus.
6. ....you were out, there was a phone call for you.

(PURPOSE)

1. I'm learning English .....get a better job.
2. The drive stopped.....the children could cross the road.
3. Tom was hurrying .....miss the train.
4. I turned on the light.....they could find the way.

(CONCESSION)

1. ....the weather was cold, she didn't take a coat.
2. ....the bad weather, they played the match.
3. She managed very well on her own .....her advanced age.
4. John isn't afraid of driving .....he had a terrible accident.
5. Peter really enjoys opera.....I hate it.
6. I won't forgive you .....your apology.

(REASON OR CAUSE)

1. The world's climate is changing .....the greenhouse effect.
2. I failed the exam .....it was very difficult.
3. I always go there .....its low prices.
4. ....I haven't seen Sean for a long time, I've decided to give him a ring.
5. ....she was busy, I typed all the letters.

**References**

Oshima, A & Hogue, A (1998). *Writing Academic English* (3<sup>rd</sup> ed). NY: Addison Wesley Publishing Company.

Oshima, A & Hogue, A (2006). *Writing Academic English* (4<sup>th</sup> ed.). White Plains, NY: Pearson/ Longman.

Jingxia, L. (2015). Adverbial Clauses. In J. D. Wright, (Ed.), *International Encyclopedia of the Social & Behavioral Sciences* (pp. 185-188). Oxford: Elsevier, Ltd .

### **Nonperiodical Web Document**

Building sentences with adverbial clauses. Retrieved Mai 6, 2020, from <https://www.examples.com/education/adverb-clause-examples.html>

## More Practice about the Previous Lectures

As all the previous lectures related to pronouns, quantifiers, adjectives, and adverbs were dealt with previously, the following exercises provide students with further practice to revise those chapters.

### Practice with Quantifiers

**Exercise 1.** Put in some or any.

1. We didn't buy \_\_\_\_\_ flowers.
2. Tonight I'm going out with \_\_\_\_\_ friends of mine.
3. A: Have you seen \_\_\_\_\_ good movies recently? B: No, I haven't been to the cinema for ages.
4. I didn't have \_\_\_\_\_ money, so I had to borrow \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Can I have \_\_\_\_\_ milk in my coffee, please?
6. We wanted to buy \_\_\_\_\_ grapes, but they didn't have \_\_\_\_\_ in the shop.
7. He did everything himself- without \_\_\_\_\_ help.
8. You can use this card to withdraw money at \_\_\_\_\_ cash machine.

**Exercise 2.** Complete the sentences with some- or any-+ -body/-thing/-where.

1. I was too surprised to say \_\_\_\_\_ .
2. There's \_\_\_\_\_ at the door. Can you go and see who it is?
3. Does \_\_\_\_\_ mind if I open the window?
4. I wasn't feeling hungry, so I didn't eat \_\_\_\_\_ .
5. You must be hungry. Why don't I get you \_\_\_\_\_ to eat?
6. Quick, let's go! There's \_\_\_\_\_ coming and I don't want \_\_\_\_\_ to see us.
7. Sarah was upset about \_\_\_\_\_ and refused to talk to \_\_\_\_\_
8. This machine is very easy to use \_\_\_\_\_ can learn to use it very quickly.

**Exercise 3.** Put in much, many, little, few.

1. She isn't very popular. She has \_\_\_\_\_ friends.
2. Ann is very busy these days. She has \_\_\_\_\_ free time.

3. Did you take \_\_\_\_\_ pictures when you were on holiday?
4. I'm not very busy today. I don't have \_\_\_\_\_ to do.
5. This is a very modern city. There are \_\_\_\_\_ old buildings.
6. The weather has been very dry recently. We've had \_\_\_\_\_ rain.
7. 'Do you know Rome?' 'No, I haven't been there for \_\_\_\_\_ years.'

### **Practice with Adjectives and Adverbs**

**Exercise 1.** Underline the correct adjective or adverb.

1. This tea tastes a bit \_\_\_\_\_.(strange/ strangely)
2. I always feel \_\_\_\_\_ when the sun is shining. (happy/ happily)
3. The children were playing \_\_\_\_\_ in the garden. (happy/ happily)
4. The man became \_\_\_\_\_ when the manager of the restaurant asked him to leave. (violent/ violently)
5. You look \_\_\_\_\_! Are you all right? (terrible/ terribly)
6. There's no point in doing a job if you don't do it \_\_\_\_\_. (proper/ properly)
7. The soup tastes \_\_\_\_\_. (good/ well)
8. Hurry up! You're always so \_\_\_\_\_. (slow/ slowly)

**Exercise 2:** Rewrite each sentence, using the adverb in parentheses correctly in the sentence.

1. Catherine has finished writing the essay due tomorrow. (already)
2. Helen is at Jason's house. (seldom)
3. Does he go to her house? (always)
4. He goes hiking to get away from it all and relax. (often)

5. She should tell him the truth. (always)

6. Eric has seen the ocean. (never)

7. Steven produces his electronic music on his laptop. (often)

8. Anna is at the club on Tuesday nights. (often)

9. Vince goes to the movies, because he prefers staying home. (rarely)

10. I don't ask for a girl's number if I don't know her. (generally)

### **References**

Raymond, M. (2012). *English Grammar in Use*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Torres-Gouzerh, R (2008). *Intermediate English grammar for ESL Learners*. United States: McGraw-Hill Companies.

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Adverbial Clauses: The Complete Guide. Retrieved Mai 6, 2019, from <https://grammartop.com/adverbial-clause-a-complete-guide/>