

8. The trainer spoke harshly to the *disobedient* dog.
9. Dodging to his left and then to his right, Manuel scored the *winning* goal.
10. The veterinarian told Pamela that he was taking good care of her *lame* horse.

The Adverb Clause

4e. An *adverb clause* is a subordinate clause that modifies a verb, an adjective, or an adverb.

An adverb clause generally tells *how, when, where, why, how much, to what extent, or under what condition* the action of a verb takes place.

EXAMPLES **After I had proofread my paper,** I input the corrections. [The adverb clause *After I had proofread my paper* tells *when* I input the corrections.]

Because crêpes are delicious, Joy makes them on special occasions. [*Because crêpes are delicious* tells *why* Joy makes them on special occasions.]

You and your brother may come with us **if you want to.** [*If you want to* tells *under what condition* you and your brother may come with us.]

NOTE As you can see in the first two examples above, introductory adverb clauses are usually set off by commas.

Like adverbs, adverb clauses may also modify adjectives or adverbs.

EXAMPLES Have computers made office work easier **than it was before?** [The adverb clause *than it was before* modifies the adjective *easier*, telling *to what extent* work is easier.]

My cousin Adele reads faster **than I do.** [The adverb clause *than I do* modifies the adverb *faster*, telling *how much faster* my cousin Adele reads.]

NOTE When using adverb clauses to make comparisons, be sure your comparisons are complete.

INCOMPLETE I like dancing better than you. [Do I like dancing better than I like you? Do I like dancing better than you like dancing?]

COMPLETE I like dancing better **than you do.**

Reference Note

For more about using **commas** to set off introductory elements, see page 326.

Reference Note

For more about **complete comparisons**, see page 257.

SKILLS FOCUS

Identify and use subordinating conjunctions.

Subordinating Conjunctions

Adverb clauses are introduced by *subordinating conjunctions*—words that show the relationship between the adverb clause and the word or words that the clause modifies.

Common Subordinating Conjunctions

after	because	since	when
although	before	so that	whenever
as	even though	than	where
as if	if	though	wherever
as long as	in order that	unless	whether
as soon as	once	until	while

Some subordinating conjunctions, such as *after*, *before*, *since*, and *until*, may also be used as prepositions.

- EXAMPLES** Be sure to hand in your report **before the end** of class today. [prepositional phrase]
- Be sure to hand in your report **before class ends today**. [adverb clause]

Exercise 4 Identifying and Classifying Adverb Clauses

Identify each adverb clause in the following sentences. Then, write what the clause tells: *when*, *where*, *how*, *why*, *to what extent*, or *under what condition*. A sentence may have more than one adverb clause.

- EXAMPLE**
- When you see the humble man on the next page, can you believe that he is considered one of the twentieth century's greatest leaders?
 - When you see the humble man on the next page—when
 - If you look through newspapers from the first half of the twentieth century, you will see many pictures of Mohandas K. Gandhi.
 - This man led India to independence from Britain, and he took his spinning wheel wherever he went.
 - He did so because he viewed spinning as a symbol of the peaceful, traditional Indian lifestyle.
 - He also hoped to encourage the Indian people to make their own clothes so that they would not have to depend on British industry.
 - As a form of protest, he led marches or fasted until the government met his requests.

Think as a Reader/Writer

Because an adverb clause does not have a fixed location in a sentence, you must choose where to put the clause. Write different versions of a sentence containing an adverb clause. Then, read aloud each version to see how the placement of the clause affects flow, rhythm, and overall meaning.

- EXAMPLES**
- After we leave for school, Mom works on her novel.
- Mom works on her novel after we leave for school.

COMPUTER TIP



If you use a computer to write compositions, you can easily experiment with the placement of adverb clauses in sentences.

SKILLS FOCUS

Identify and use noun clauses.



6. Gandhi's nonviolent methods were more powerful than anyone could have predicted.
7. As India's Congress and people increasingly supported Gandhi's nonviolent program, the British government was forced to listen.
8. Gandhi was well qualified to represent India as a diplomat since he had studied law in London before he became involved in India's freedom movement.
9. After independence was assured, Gandhi turned his attention to helping India's many poor people.
10. Because he was loved throughout India and the world, Gandhi was called *Mahatma*, meaning "Great Soul."

The Noun Clause

4f. A noun clause is a subordinate clause that is used as a noun.

A noun clause may be used as a subject, as a complement (such as a predicate nominative, direct object, or indirect object), or as the object of a preposition.

SUBJECT **What Mary Anne did to rescue the injured bird** was brave.

PREDICATE NOMINATIVE The winner of the race will be **whoever runs fastest in the final stretch.**

DIRECT OBJECT She finally discovered **what the answer to her question was.**

INDIRECT OBJECT Give **whatever parts need cleaning** a rinse in detergent.

OBJECT OF PREPOSITION He checks the ID cards of **whoever visits.**

Noun clauses are usually introduced by

that	when	whether	whom
what	whenever	who	whomever
whatever	where	whoever	why

Reference Note

For more information on **subjects, predicate nominatives, direct objects, and indirect objects**, see Chapter 2. For more about **objects of prepositions**, see page 116.

SKILLS FOCUS

Classify sentences by structure.