

Subordinating Conjunctions

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 if, because, if, so that, than, unless, when, where, and while*.

EXAMPLE The aroma of shrimp gumbo greeted Mother **when she arrived home from work**. [*When* shows the relationship between the adverb clause and the verb *greeted*.]

EXERCISE A In each of the following sentences, draw a line under the adverb clause and circle the subordinating conjunction.

Example 1. Before she left for work, Keiko remembered to pack a lunch.

1. Though I did not enjoy the first page, I finished the story.
2. Oscar can swim much farther than I can.
3. You may watch television after dinner as long as you finish your homework first.
4. The post office is closed because today is Presidents' Day.
5. Unless the track team wins its next two meets, it will not go to the state finals.
6. There are footnotes at the bottom of each page so that the reader can immediately see the meaning of old or obscure words.
7. If the weather stays nice, we can go biking this afternoon.
8. Susannah sounds as though she has a bad cold.
9. Although the salad usually came with olives, Gretchen asked the cook not to put olives on hers.
10. Jan's kite soared higher than Mimi's model airplane flew.

EXERCISE B On the line provided, identify the underlined word group as AC for *adverb clause* or PP for *prepositional phrase*.

Example PP 1. Until Saturday, the folk singer will be appearing nightly at the pizza parlor.

- _____ 11. Until I was born, my family lived in St. Louis, Missouri.
- _____ 12. We left the campsite a few minutes before dawn.
- _____ 13. Since breakfast, we have seen eight blue jays.
- _____ 14. Hilary spoke to Steve and Judy after she spoke to me.
- _____ 15. Try to finish those dishes before you leave.

The Noun Clause

6f. A **noun clause** is a subordinate clause that is used as a noun.

EXAMPLES **That life exists on other planets** seems possible. [subject of the verb *seems*]
 A new computer is **what Matthew needs**. [predicate nominative identifying the subject *computer*]
 A good salesperson knows **what customers want**. [direct object of the verb *knows*]
 I will pay **whoever finds the gerbil** a reward. [indirect object of the verb *will pay*]
 Are you particular about **what you watch on television?** [object of the

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

Example 1. You may take whomever you wish to the dance.

1. The film told us about what we should do in the case of an earthquake.
2. That some tapeworms grow to lengths of more than one hundred feet seems incredible.
3. No one could explain what had happened to all of the treasure.
4. Leuwana sent whoever asked her for one a postcard from Puerto Rico.
5. The ending of the book is not what I had expected.

EXERCISE B Underline the noun clause in each of the following sentences. Then, identify the use of the clause by writing above it one of these abbreviations: *S* for *subject*, *PN* for *predicate nominative*, *DO* for *direct object*, *IO* for *indirect object*, or *OP* for *object of a preposition*.

Example 1. No one knows who first set foot in America.
DO

6. That the referee called a technical foul caused an uproar among the fans.
7. The guest speaker told us what could be done about acid rain.
8. The number of commercials during a television program is what annoys me most.
9. The cafeteria worker gave whoever asked for more pasta another generous helping.
10. Whatever happens at the Super Bowl will be seen by millions of people.
11. Please do not tell me how the movie ends.
12. That the storm caused some damage is an understatement.
13. The ship's captain offered whoever spotted a whale three gold coins.
14. Whatever happened to Amelia Earhart's airplane remains a mystery.
15. Tsang Ying is reading a book about what happened to the bison of North America.

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Adjective, Adverb, and Noun Clauses A

6d. An **adjective clause** is a subordinate clause that modifies a noun or a pronoun.

EXAMPLE *Hannah, which is spelled the same way backward and forward,* is an example of a palindrome. [The adjective clause modifies the noun *Hannah*.]

6e. An **adverb clause** is a subordinate clause that modifies a verb, an adjective, or an adverb.

EXAMPLE *Whenever the Moscow Circus performs,* it draws a large crowd. [The adverb clause modifies the verb *draws*.]

6f. A **noun clause** is a subordinate clause that is used as a noun.

EXAMPLE *What they saw on the treasure map* confused the explorers at first. [The noun clause is the subject of verb *confused*.]

EXERCISE A Underline each subordinate clause in the following sentences. Then, write over the clause *ADJ* if it is an adjective clause, *ADV* if it is an adverb clause, or *N* if it is a noun clause.

Example 1. ^{*ADV*} Whenever the weather was nice, Jackie and Nicci played in the backyard.

1. Jeri, who learned to dance from his grandmother, taught us the Charleston.
2. Because her favorite program was on, Stacy wanted to stay home.
3. Any author whose books make the bestseller list is likely to make a lot of money.
4. Whoever spilled the mustard all over the floor should clean it up.
5. Esai rode his bicycle whenever he had errands to run.
6. This is the garden where we grow tomatoes.
7. He told his story to whoever would listen.
8. Mother explained why we should change the oil in the car.
9. If we want to get to the game on time, we should leave now.
10. The play on which the film is based is quite good.

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Adjective, Adverb, and Noun Clauses B

6d. An **adjective clause** is a subordinate clause that modifies a noun or a pronoun.

EXAMPLE The panda, **which is an endangered species**, eats mainly bamboo plants. [The adjective clause modifies the noun *panda*.]

6e. An **adverb clause** is a subordinate clause that modifies a verb, an adjective, or an adverb.

EXAMPLE After the game, the pitcher felt **as if she had strained a muscle in her right arm**. [The adverb clause modifies the verb *felt*.]

6f. A **noun clause** is a subordinate clause that is used as a noun.

EXAMPLE My parents strongly suggested **that I clean my room**. [The noun clause is the direct object of the verb *suggested*.]

EXERCISE Underline each subordinate clause in the following sentences. Then, write above the clause *ADJ* if it is an adjective clause, *ADV* if it is an adverb clause, or *N* if it is a noun clause.

Example 1. Brigitte has read more of the assignment ^{*ADV*} than Sven has read.

1. He rode his bicycle wherever he wanted to go.
2. The poet to whom she is referring is Robert Frost.
3. Whatever you want to do tonight is okay with me.
4. He is the artist whose sculptures are placed in the courtyard.
5. As soon as she got home from the library, she started the book.
6. Ernesto studied hard so that he could pass the sergeant's exam.
7. We often visited Dr. Ito on Sunday evenings, when he usually cooked a traditional Japanese meal.
8. At last, Carla remembered what she had meant to say before.
9. Because he had a cold that evening, Stevie missed the premiere of the film.
10. The hostess gave whoever came to the party a paper hat and a noisemaker.