

# Intermediate English Grammar

## **Chapter 8** **Adverb Clauses**

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# CLAUSE

NOUN CLAUSE

ADJECTIVE  
CLAUSE

ADVERB  
CLAUSE

# ADVERB CLAUSE

An adverb clause is a group of words that, together, functions as an adverb. This means that the clause describes or modifies a verb, adjective, or another adverb. Unlike other types of clauses, an adverbial clause is always a dependent clause.

# INTRODUCTION

<p>(a) When we were in New York, we saw several plays.</p> <p>(b) We saw several plays when we were in New York.</p>	<p><i>When we were in New York</i> is an adverb clause. PUNCTUATION: When an adverb clause precedes an independent clause, as in (a), a comma is used to separate the clauses. When the adverb clause follows, as in (b), usually no comma is used.</p>
<p>(c) Because he was sleepy, he went to bed.</p> <p>(d) He went to bed because he was sleepy.</p>	<p>Like <b><i>when, because</i></b> introduces an adverb clause. <i>Because he was sleepy</i> is an adverb clause.</p>
<p>(e) INCORRECT: When we were in New York. We saw several plays.</p> <p>(f) INCORRECT: He went to bed. Because he was sleepy.</p>	<p>Adverb clauses are dependent clauses. They cannot stand alone as a sentence in written English. They must be connected to an independent clause.</p>

# SUMMARY LIST OF WORDS USED TO INTRODUCE ADVERB CLAUSES

	<b>TIME</b>	<b>CAUSE &amp; EFFECT</b>	<b>CONTRAST</b>	<b>CONDITION</b>
<i>after</i>	<i>by the time (that)</i>	<i>because</i>	<i>even though</i>	<i>if</i>
<i>before</i>	<i>once</i>	<i>now that</i>	<i>although</i>	<i>unless</i>
<i>when</i>	<i>as/so long as</i>	<i>since</i>	<i>though</i>	<i>only if</i>
<i>while</i>	<i>whenever</i>			<i>whether or not</i>
<i>as</i>	<i>every time (that)</i>		DIRECT	<i>even if</i>
<i>as soon as</i>	<i>the first time (that)</i>		CONTRAST	<i>in case</i>
<i>since</i>	<i>the last time (that)</i>		<i>while</i>	<i>in the event</i>
<i>until</i>	<i>the next time (that)</i>		<i>whereas</i>	<i>that</i>

# USING ADVERB CLAUSES TO SHOW CAUSE AND EFFECT

<i>because</i>	(a) Because he was sleepy, he went to bed. (b) He went to bed because he was sleepy.	An adverb clause may precede or follow the independent clause. Notice the punctuation in (a) and (b).
<i>now that</i>	(c) Now that the semester is over, I'm going to rest a few days and then take a trip. (d) Jack lost his job. Now that he's unemployed, he can't pay his bills.	Now that means "because now." In (c): Now that the semester is over means "because the semester is now over." Now that is used for present causes of present or future situations.

# USING ADVERB CLAUSES TO SHOW CAUSE AND EFFECT

<i>since</i>	<p>(e) Since Monday is a holiday, we don't have to go to work.</p> <p>(f) Since you're a good cook and I'm not, you should cook the dinner.</p>	<p>When <b><i>since</i></b> is used to mean "because," it expresses a known cause; it means "because it is a fact that" or "given that it is true that." Cause and effect sentences with <b><i>since</i></b> say: "Given the fact that X is true, Y is the result." In (e): "Given the fact that Monday is a holiday, we don't have to go to work." Note: <b><i>Since</i></b> has two meanings. One is "because." It is also used in time clauses: e.g., <i>Since I came here, I have met many people.</i></p>
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# Exercise

Combine the sentences, using the word or phrase in parentheses. Add commas where necessary.

1. We can go swimming every day. The weather is warm. (now that)
2. All of the students had done poorly on the test. The teacher decided to give it again. (since)
3. Our TV set was broken. We listened to the news on the radio. (because)
4. You paid for the theater tickets. Please let me pay for our dinner. (since)

# Exercise [answer]

Combine the sentences, using the word or phrase in parentheses.  
Add commas where necessary.

1. We can go swimming every day **now that** the weather is warm.
2. **Since** all of the students had done poorly on the test, the teacher decided to give it again.
3. We listened to the news on the radio **because** our TV set was broken.
4. **Since** you paid for the theater tickets, please let me pay for our dinner.

## EXPRESSING CONTRAST (UNEXPECTED RESULT): USING EVEN THOUGH

- a. **Because** the weather was cold, I *didn't* go swimming.
- b. **Even though** the weather was cold, I *went* swimming.
- c. **Because** I wasn't tired, I *didn't* go to bed.
- d. **Even though** I wasn't tired, I *went* to bed.

**Because** is used to express expected results.

**Even though** is used to express unexpected results.

Note: Like **because**, **even though** introduces an adverb clause.

# SHOWING DIRECT CONTRAST: WHILE AND WHEREAS

<p>a. Mary is rich, <b>while</b> John is poor. b. John is poor, <b>while</b> Mary is rich. c. Mary is rich, <b>whereas</b> John is poor. d. <b>Whereas</b> Mary is rich, John is poor.</p>	<p><b>While</b> and <b>whereas</b> are used to show direct contrast: “this” is exactly the opposite of “that”. <b>While</b> and <b>whereas</b> may be used with the idea of either clause with no difference in meaning. <b>Whereas</b> mostly occurs in formal written English. Note: A comma is usually used even if the adverb clause comes second.</p>
<p>COMPARE e. <b>While</b> I was studying, the phone rang.</p>	<p><b>While</b> is also used in time clauses and means “during the time that,” as in (e).</p>

# Exercise

Complete the sentences by using either **even though** or **because**.

1. Tim's in good shape physically ..... he doesn't get much exercise.
2. Larry's in good shape physically ..... he gets a lot of exercise.
3. I put on my sunglasses ..... it was a dark, cloudy day.
4. I put on my sunglasses ..... the sun was bright.

# Exercise [answer]

Complete the sentences by using either **even though** or **because**.

1. Tim's in good shape physically **even though** he doesn't get much exercise.
2. Larry's in good shape physically **because** he gets a lot of exercise.
3. I put on my sunglasses **even though** it was a dark, cloudy day.
4. I put on my sunglasses **because** the sun was bright.

# EXPRESSING CONDITIONS IN ADVERB CLAUSES: IF-CLAUSES

<p><i>a. If it rains</i>, the streets get wet.</p>	<p><i>If</i>-clauses (also called “adverb clauses of condition”) present possible conditions. The main clause expresses results. In (a): POSSIBLE CONDITION = <i>it rains</i> RESULT = <i>the streets get wet</i></p>
<p><i>b. If it rains tomorrow</i>, I will take my umbrella.</p>	<p>A present tense, not a future tense, is used in an <i>if</i>-clause even though the verb in the <i>if</i>-clause may refer to a future event or situation, as in (b).</p>

# ADVERB CLAUSES OF CONDITION: USING WHETHER OR NOT AND EVEN IF

<p><b>WHETHER OR NOT</b> <i>a. I'm going to go swimming tomorrow whether or not it is cold.</i> <i>(OR: whether it is cold or not.)</i></p>	<p><b>Whether or not</b> expresses the idea that neither this condition nor that condition matters; the result will be the same. In (a): "If it is cold, I'm going swimming. If it is not cold, I'm going swimming. I don't care about the temperature. It doesn't matter."</p>
<p>EVEN IF <i>b. I have decided to go swimming tomorrow. Even if the weather is cold, I'm going to go swimming.</i></p>	<p>Sentences with <b>even if</b> are close in meaning to those with <b>whether or not</b>. <b>Even if</b> gives the idea that a particular condition does not matter. The result will not change.</p>

## ADVERB CLAUSES OF CONDITION: USING *IN CASE* AND *IN THE EVENT THAT*

- a. I'll be at my uncle's house in case you (should) need to reach me.
- b. In the event that you (should) need to reach me, I'll be at my uncle's house.

In case and in the event that express the idea that something probably won't happen, but it might.

In case/in the event that means "if by chance this should happen."

Notes: In the event that is more formal than in case. The use of should in the adverb clause emphasizes the speaker's uncertainty that something will happen.

## ADVERB CLAUSES OF CONDITION: USING *UNLESS*

<p>a. I'll go swimming tomorrow unless it's cold.</p> <p>b. I'll go swimming tomorrow if it isn't cold.</p>	<p>unless = if ... not</p> <p>In (a): unless it's cold means "if it isn't cold."</p> <p>(a) and (b) have the same meaning.</p>
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## ADVERB CLAUSES OF CONDITION: USING *ONLY IF*

<p><b>WHETHER OR NOT</b></p> <p>(a) <i>The picnic will be canceled only if it rains.</i> <i>If it's windy, we'll go on the picnic.</i> <i>If it's cold, we'll go on the picnic.</i> <i>If it's damp and foggy, we'll go on the picnic.</i> <i>If it's unbearably hot, we'll go on the picnic.</i></p>	<p><b>Only if</b> expresses the idea that there is only one condition that will cause a particular result.</p>
<p>(b) Only if it rains will the picnic be canceled.</p>	<p>When <b>only if</b> begins a sentence, the subject and verb of the main clause are inverted, as in (b).* No commas are used.</p>

# Exercise

Create sentences with the same meaning as the given ones. Use *only if* and *unless*.

1. If you don't study hard, you won't pass the test.
2. If I don't get a job, I can't pay my bill.
3. Your clothes won't get clean if you don't use soap.

# Exercise

Create sentences with the same meaning as the given ones. Use *only if* and *unless*.

1. If you don't study hard, you won't pass the test.

You will pass the test **only if** you study hard.

You won't pass the test **unless** you study hard.

2. If I don't get a job, I can't pay my bill.

I can pay my bill **only if** I get a job.

I can't pay my bill **unless** I get a job.

3. Your clothes won't get clean if you don't use soap.

Your clothes will get clean **only if** you use soap.

Your clothes won't get clean **unless** you use soap.

Thank you!

## REFERENCES

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