

# Intermediate English Grammar

## Chapter 10

### **Reduction and Coordinating Conjunction**

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# REDUCTIONS

# REDUCTION OF ADVERB CLAUSES TO MODIFYING ADVERBIAL PHRASES

Some adverb clauses may also be changed to modifying phrases, and the ways in which the changes are made are the same:

Omit the subject of the dependent clause and the **be** form of the verb, as in (b). OR If there is no **be** form of a verb, omit the subject and change the verb to **-ing**, as in (d).

- a) ADVERB CLAUSE: *While I was walking to class*, I ran into an old friend.
- b) MODIFYING PHRASE: *While walking to class*, I ran into an old friend.
- c) ADVERB CLAUSE: *Before I left for work*, I ate breakfast.
- d) MODIFYING PHRASE: *Before leaving for work*, I ate breakfast.

# REDUCTION OF ADVERB CLAUSES TO MODIFYING ADVERBIAL PHRASES

An adverb clause can be changed to a modifying phrase **only when the subject of the adverb clause and the subject of the main clause are the same**. A *modifying adverbial phrase* that is the reduction of an adverb clause *modifies the subject* of the main clause.

- e) CHANGE POSSIBLE: *While I was sitting in class, I* fell asleep.  
*While sitting in class, I* fell asleep.
- f) CHANGE POSSIBLE: *While Ann was sitting in class, she* fell asleep. (clause) *While sitting in class, Ann* fell asleep.

## REDUCTION OF ADVERB CLAUSES TO MODIFYING ADVERBIAL PHRASES

No reduction (i.e., change) is possible if the subjects of the adverb clause and the main clause are different, as in (g) and (h).

g) NO CHANGE POSSIBLE: *While **the teacher** was lecturing to the class, I fell asleep.\**

h) NO CHANGE POSSIBLE: *While we were walking home, **a frog** hopped across the road in front of us.*

\**While lecturing to the class, I fell asleep* means “While *I* was lecturing to the class, *I* fell asleep.”

## REDUCTION OF ADVERB CLAUSES TO MODIFYING ADVERBIAL PHRASES

In (i): *While walking home* is called a “dangling modifier” or a “dangling participle,” i.e., a modifier that is incorrectly “hanging alone” without an appropriate noun or pronoun subject to modify.

- i) **INCORRECT:** *While walking home*, a frog hopped across the road in front of us.
- j) **INCORRECT:** *While walking TV last night*, the phone rang.

## CHANGING TIME CLAUSES TO MODIFYING ADVERBIAL PHRASES

Adverb clauses beginning with ***after***, ***before***, ***while***, and ***since*** can be changed to modifying adverbial phrases.

- a) CLAUSE: ***Since Maria came to this country***, she has made many friends.
- b) PHRASE: ***Since coming to this country***, Maria has made many friends.

# CHANGING TIME CLAUSES TO MODIFYING ADVERBIAL PHRASES

In (c): There is no difference in meaning between *After he finished* and *After he had finished*. (See Chart 3-3 p. 45.)

In (d) and (e): There is no difference in meaning between *After finishing* and *After having finished*.

- c) CLAUSE: ***After he (had) finished*** his homework, Peter went to bed.
- d) PHRASE: ***After finishing*** his homework, Peter went to bed.
- e) PHRASE: ***After having finished*** his homework, Peter went to bed.

## CHANGING TIME CLAUSES TO MODIFYING ADVERBIAL PHRASES

A modifying adverbial phrase may follow the main clause, as in (f).

f) PHRASE: Peter went to bed ***after finishing his homework.***

## EXPRESSING THE IDEA OF “DURING THE SAME TIME” IN MODIFYING ADVERBIAL PHRASES

Something **while** is omitted but the **-ing** phrase at the beginning of the sentence gives the same meaning (i.e., “during the same time”). (a), (b), and (c) have the same meaning.

- a) **While I was walking** down the street, **I** ran into an old friend.
- b) **While walking** down the street, **I** ran into an old friend.
- c) **Walking** down the street, **I** ran into an old friend.
- d) **Hiking** through the woods yesterday, **we** saw a bear.
- e) **Pointing** to the sentence on the board, **the teacher** explained the meaning of modifying phrases.

# EXPRESSING CAUSE AND EFFECT IN MODIFYING ADVERBIAL PHRASES

Often an *-ing* phrase at the beginning of a sentence gives the meaning of “because.” (f) and (g) have the same meaning.

**Because** is not included in a modifying phrase. It is omitted, but the resulting phrase expresses a cause and effect relationship, as in (g) and (i).

- f) *Because she needed* some money to buy a book, **Sue** cashed a check.**
- g) *Needing* some money to buy a book, **Sue** cashed a check.**
- h) *Because he lacked* the necessary qualifications, **he** was not considered for the job.**
- i) *Lacking* the necessary qualifications, **he** was not considered for the job.**

## EXPRESSING CAUSE AND EFFECT IN MODIFYING ADVERBIAL PHRASES

***Having*** + *past participle* gives the meaning not only of “because” but also of “before.”

***j) Having seen*** that movie before, ***I don't want*** to go again.

***k) Having seen*** that movie before, ***I didn't want*** to go again.

## EXPRESSING CAUSE AND EFFECT IN MODIFYING ADVERBIAL PHRASES

A form to **be** in the adverb clause may be changed to **being**. The use **being** makes the cause and effect relationship clear. (l), (m), and (n) have the same meaning.

*l) Because she was unable* to afford a car, **she** bought a bicycle.

*m) Being unable* to afford a car, **she** bought a bicycle.

*n) Unable* to afford a car, **she** bought a bicycle.

## USING *UPON* + *-ING* IN MODIFYING ADVERBIAL PHRASES

Modifying adverbial phrases beginning with *upon* + *-ing* usually have the same meaning as adverb clauses introduced by *when*. (a) and (b) have the same meaning.

- a) Upon reaching* the age of 21, I received my inheritance.
- b) When I reached* the age of 21, I received my inheritance.

## USING *UPON* + *-ING* IN MODIFYING ADVERBIAL PHRASES

*Upon* can be shortened to *on*. (a), (b), and (c) all have the same meaning.

c) *On reaching* the age of 21, I received my inheritance.

# **COORDINATING CONJUNCTIONS**

# COORDINATING CONJUNCTIONS

## PARALLEL STRUCTURE

One use of conjunction is to connect words or phrases that have the same grammatical function in a sentence. This use of conjunctions is called “parallel structure.” The conjunctions used in this pattern are ***and, but, or, nor***. These words are called “coordinating conjunctions.”

# PARALLEL STRUCTURE

In (a): *noun + **and** + noun*

In (b): *verb + **and** + verb*

In (c): *verb + **and** + verb* (The second auxiliary may be omitted if it is the same as the first auxiliary.)

In (d): *adjective + **but** + adjective*

In (e): *infinitive + **or** + infinitive* (The second **to** is usually omitted.)

- a) *Steve **and** his friend* are coming to dinner.
- b) Susan *raised* her hand **and** *snapped* her fingers.
- c) He *is waving* his arms **and** *(is) shouting* at us.
- d) These shoes are *old* **but** *comfortable*.
- e) He wants *to watch* TV **or** *(to) listen* to some music.

# PARALLEL STRUCTURE

A parallel structure may contain more than two parts. In a series, commas are used to separate each unit. The final comma that precedes the conjunction is optional; also correct: *Steve, Joe, and Alice* are coming to dinner.

- f) *Steve, Joe, and Alice* are coming to dinner.
- g) Susan *raised* her hand, *snapped* her fingers, **and** *asked* a question.
- h) The colors in that fabric are *red, gold, black, and green*.

# PARALLEL STRUCTURE

Note: No commas are used if there are only two parts to a parallel structure.

i) *INCORRECT: Steve, and Joe* are coming to dinner.

## PAIRED CONJUNCTIONS: *BOTH ... AND; NOT ONLY ... BUT ALSO; EITHER ... OR; NEITHER ... NOR*

Two subjects connected by ***both ... and*** take a plural verb, as in (a).

When two subjects are connected by ***not only ... but also, either ... or, or neither ... nor***, the subject that is closer to the verb determines whether the verb is singular or plural.

- a) ***Both my mother and my sister are*** here.
- b) ***Not only my mother but also my sister is*** here.
- c) ***Not only my sister but also my parents are*** here.
- d) ***Neither my mother nor my sister is*** here.
- e) ***Neither my sister nor my parents are*** here.

## PAIRED CONJUNCTIONS: *BOTH ... AND; NOT ONLY ... BUT ALSO; EITHER ... OR; NEITHER ... NOR*

Notice the parallel structure in the examples. The same grammatical form should follow each part of the paired conjunctions.\*

In (f): ***both*** + *noun* + ***and*** + *noun*

In (g): ***not only*** + *verb* + ***but also*** + *verb*

In (h): ***either*** + *noun* + ***or*** + *noun*

In (i): ***neither*** + *adjective* + ***nor*** + *adjective*

- f) The research project will take ***both*** *time* ***and*** *money*.
- g) Yesterday is ***not only*** *rained* ***but*** (***also***) *snowed*.
- h) I'll take ***either*** *chemistry* ***or*** *physics* next quarter.
- i) That book is ***neither*** *interesting* ***nor*** *accurate*.

Thank you!

## REFERENCES

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