



## COMPLEX SENTENCES WITH ADVERBIAL CLAUSES OF TIME AND PLACE, REASON, PURPOSE, CONDITION, CONCESSION, MANNER COMPARISON, RESULT, DEGREE AND MEASURE.

### CLEFT SENTENCES

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#### ABSTRACT

*In linguistics, complex sentences play a central role in expressing relationships between ideas, events, and circumstances. Among the many types of subordinate clauses found in complex structures, **adverbial clauses of time** are particularly significant because they allow speakers and writers to situate actions chronologically. These clauses contribute to textual cohesion, clarify sequence, and enhance the precision of temporal meaning in communication. Complex sentences are essential for expressing intricate relationships between ideas. Among the various types of subordinate clauses, **adverbial clauses of place** hold an important position, as they allow speakers and writers to specify where an action occurs. Among the various types of subordinate clauses, **adverbial clauses of reason** serve a particularly important function because they explain why something happens. Among the many types of subordinate clauses, **adverbial clauses of purpose** occupy a special position, as they indicate the goal, intention, or aim behind an action. **Adverbial clauses of condition**, which specify the circumstances under which an action in the main clause may occur. These clauses enhance clarity and logical structure in discourse by indicating possibilities, requirements, and hypothetical situations that influence the outcome of events.*

An **adverbial clause of time** is a dependent clause that functions as an adverb, indicating *when*, *how long*, or *how often* an action occurs. "An adverbial clause is a dependent structure that modifies a verb"<sup>1</sup> It cannot stand alone as a complete sentence, as its meaning relies on the main clause. Such clauses are introduced by time-related subordinators, including **when**,

<sup>1</sup> R. Quirk, *A Comprehensive Grammar of the English Language*, Longman, 1985, p-4

**while, as soon as, before, after, since, once, until, and whenever.** Each conjunction adds slightly different temporal nuances. For example, *when* often introduces a specific point in time, whereas *while* suggests simultaneity, and *until* marks the end point of an action. An **adverbial clause of place** is a dependent clause that functions as an adverb modifying the verb of the main clause. Because it cannot stand alone, it relies on subordinating conjunctions—most commonly **where, wherever, and anywhere (that)**—to connect it to the main clause. These conjunctions signal spatial relationships between two events, actions, or states. For example, in the sentence “*I will follow you wherever you go*,” the subordinate clause “*wherever you go*” specifies the location of the action in the main clause. “Reason clauses express the cause that motivates an event”.<sup>2</sup> An **adverbial clause of reason** is a dependent clause that functions as an adverb, modifying the verb of the main clause by providing the cause or reason behind an action. Since such clauses cannot stand alone, they are introduced by subordinators including **because, since, as, and for** (when used in a causal sense). Each conjunction expresses slightly different nuances. For example, *because* emphasizes a clear causal relationship, while *since* and *as* often indicate reasons that are presumed to be already known to the listener. In the sentence “*They stayed indoors because it was raining*,” the subordinate clause supplies the motivating cause for the action described in the main clause. One of the key linguistic features of adverbial clauses of reason is their role in encoding **causal relations**, which are central to human reasoning and communication. These clauses allow language users to connect actions with their underlying motivations, making discourse more logical and cohesive. For instance, “*As the traffic was heavy, they left early*,” restructures the sequence of ideas to highlight cause before effect, demonstrating how syntax can shape the emphasis and interpretation of events. An **adverbial clause of purpose** is a dependent clause that modifies the verb of the main clause and expresses the intended result of an action. Such clauses are commonly introduced by subordinating conjunctions such as **so that, in order that, and lest**, as well as more modern constructions like **so + that** for purpose. They answer the question “*for what purpose?*” For example, in the sentence “*She whispered so that no one would hear her*,” the subordinate clause explains the intention behind the whispering. These clauses are significant in expressing **intentionality**, a key semantic feature in human communication. They help convey motivations beyond mere causality, distinguishing between what a person *does* and what they *hope to achieve*. For example, “*He studied hard in order that he might pass the exam*” presents an action oriented toward a specific future outcome. Unlike reason clauses, which explain cause, purpose clauses focus on future goals and expected results. An **adverbial clause of condition** is a dependent clause that functions as an adverb, modifying the verb in the main clause by answering the question “*under what condition?*” Such clauses are typically introduced by subordinating conjunctions including **if, unless, provided that, in case, and on condition that**. Each conjunction expresses a different degree of certainty or dependency. For example, in the sentence “*If it rains, we will stay indoors*,” the subordinate clause states the condition that determines the action of the main clause. An **adverbial clause of concession** is a dependent clause that modifies the verb of the main clause by indicating an idea that seems to contradict or weaken the expected result. These clauses are commonly introduced by subordinating conjunctions such as **although, though, even though, while, whereas**, and by complex expressions like **even if**. For example, in the sentence “*Although it was raining, they continued their journey*,” the subordinate clause introduces a circumstance that would normally prevent the action but does not. An **adverbial clause of manner** is a dependent clause that functions as an adverb, modifying the verb of the main clause by describing the method, style, or way in which an action occurs. These clauses are typically introduced by subordinating conjunctions such as **as, as if, as though**, and in

<sup>2</sup> R. Huddleston & G. Pullum, *The Cambridge Grammar of the English Language*, Cambridge University Press, 2002

some cases by **the way**. For example, in the sentence “*He spoke as if he knew the answer,*” the subordinate clause indicates the manner of speaking. An **adverbial clause of result** is a dependent clause that explains *what happens as a consequence* of the action in the main clause. These clauses are typically introduced by conjunctions and correlative structures such as **so that**, **so...that**, **such...that**, and occasionally **so + adjective/adverb + that**. For example, in the sentence “*She spoke so quietly that no one could hear her,*” the subordinate clause “*that no one could hear her*” expresses the direct result of the manner described in the main clause. Typically, adverbial clauses of degree and measure are introduced by subordinators such as “**as...as**,” “**so...that**,” “**such...that**,” “**the...the**,” “**than**,” and “**as far as**.” Each of these markers signals a relationship between the main clause and the subordinate clause, often reflecting a cause-effect or comparison-based logic. For example, in sentences with “**so...that**,” the main clause normally presents a level or intensity, and the subordinate clause presents the resulting degree or consequence. Likewise, forms like “**as...as**” highlight equality of degree, while “**than**” introduces the standard of comparison. Adverbial clauses of degree and measure perform essential communicative functions. They allow speakers and writers to express subtle distinctions in intensity, emotion, and evaluation. When a speaker says, “*She was so tired that she could barely speak,*” the clause “*that she could barely speak*” precisely quantifies the degree of tiredness. Without this clause, the sentence would be vague and less expressive. Thus, such structures enhance clarity and provide nuanced meaning. **Cleft sentences** are special grammatical constructions used to give **focus**, **emphasis**, or **contrast** to a particular part of a sentence. They are common in spoken and written English when the speaker wants to highlight a specific piece of information. In linguistics, cleft constructions are considered information-structure tools that help manage **theme** and **rheme**, or **given** and **new** information. The term *cleft* means *split*, and a cleft sentence literally “splits” one idea into two clauses. A simple sentence such as “*John bought the book yesterday*” can be transformed to emphasize different elements:

*It was John who bought the book yesterday.*

*It was the book that John bought yesterday.*

*It was yesterday that John bought the book.*

Each version places a different part of the message in focus while keeping the basic meaning intact. This feature makes cleft sentences extremely useful for highlighting information according to the speaker or writer’s communicative purpose.

**In conclusion**, complex sentences with adverbial clauses of time represent a crucial linguistic mechanism for organizing temporal relationships within discourse. They provide clarity, sequence, and coherence, reflecting how humans conceptualize time and events. Through a range of subordinators and verb forms, these clauses enrich both spoken and written communication, enabling speakers to express timing, duration, and chronology with nuance and accuracy. Complex sentences with adverbial clauses of place are a crucial syntactic resource for expressing spatial relationships in language. Through conjunctions like *where* and *wherever*, these clauses provide the necessary contextual framework for describing actions, settings, and environments. They strengthen coherence, enrich descriptive detail, and reflect the essential human need to situate events within space. As such, they play a vital role in both spoken and written communication, making them an important area of study within linguistics. Complex sentences with adverbial clauses of reason play a vital role in structuring explanations and justifying actions within discourse. Through conjunctions such as *because*, *since*, and *as*, these clauses establish clear causal links, contributing to coherence, logic, and clarity in both spoken and written communication. Their importance extends across academic, professional, and everyday contexts, making them a crucial area of study within linguistics. Complex sentences with adverbial clauses of purpose represent a crucial syntactic and semantic resource in language. Through conjunctions like *so that* and *in order that*, these



clauses clarify the goals and intentions motivating an action, thereby enriching the clarity, logic, and coherence of communication. Their role in expressing future-oriented meaning makes them indispensable in both spoken and written contexts, and their study remains an important aspect of linguistic inquiry. Through conjunctions like *if*, *unless*, and *provided that*, these clauses establish the circumstances upon which actions depend, shaping the logical relationships between events. Their role in expressing hypotheses, predictions, and contingencies makes them indispensable in both spoken and written discourse. As such, they represent a vital area of study within the fields of grammar, semantics, and discourse analysis.

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