

What are Adverbial Clauses?

Worksheet

An adverbial clause is a subordinate clause that functions as an adverb, expressing relationships like time ('When you arrive'), reason ('Because it rained'), or condition ('If she passes'). It modifies the main action.

Questions

1. Which sentence has an adverbial clause expressing REASON?
A) Before you leave, turn off the light.
B) She smiled because she was happy.
C) If you study hard, you'll pass.
D) He ran while singing a song.
2. Identify the adverbial clause relationship: 'If you miss the bus, take a taxi.'
A) Time
B) Reason
C) Condition
D) Manner
3. Why should a comma follow this adverbial clause?: 'When she arrives, we will begin.'
A) Style preference
B) Adverbial clause comes first, so comma separates it from main clause
C) Always needed after adverbs
D) Never needed after adverbial clauses
4. Which relationship does 'although' express?
A) Time
B) Reason
C) Concession/Contrast
D) Purpose
5. Identify the adverbial clause and its relationship: 'She worked overtime because she needed the money.'
6. Identify the adverbial clause and its relationship: 'After the storm passed, the sun came out.'
7. Identify the adverbial clause and its relationship: 'Although it was expensive, he bought the car.'
8. Define: What is an adverbial clause?
9. Define: What subordinating conjunctions start adverbial clauses?
10. Define: Position of adverbial clauses — does order matter?

Answer Key

1. B) She smiled because she was happy. — 'Because she was happy' is an adverbial clause of reason — it answers 'Why did she smile?'
2. C) Condition — 'If you miss the bus' = conditional clause. It sets up a hypothetical situation.
3. B) Adverbial clause comes first, so comma separates it from main clause — When an adverbial clause opens a sentence, a comma typically follows to separate it from the main clause.
4. C) Concession/Contrast — 'Although' introduces a concessive clause — admits an opposing fact but shows the result doesn't follow expectations ('Although it rained, we went out.').
5. Adverbial clause: 'because she needed the money'. Relationship: REASON — why did she work overtime? Because she needed money. Connector: 'because' (subordinating conjunction expressing reason).
6. Adverbial clause: 'After the storm passed'. Relationship: TIME — when did the sun come out? After the storm passed. Connector: 'After' (subordinating conjunction expressing time sequence). Note: Adverbial clause comes at the start, separated by comma.
7. Adverbial clause: 'Although it was expensive'. Relationship: CONTRAST/CONCESSION — despite high cost, he still bought it. Connector: 'Although' (subordinating conjunction expressing contrast). Note: Concession = admits a fact but shows result contradicts expectation.
8. A dependent clause modifying a verb or adjective, expressing relationships like time, reason, condition, or contrast.
9. 'Because', 'although', 'if', 'when', 'while', 'since', 'unless', 'whereas', 'so that', 'in case', etc.
10. Can come before or after main clause. Before main clause = comma usually needed. After main clause = comma optional.

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