

Adverb Clauses

An adverb may be a single word such as *quickly*, *here* or *yesterday*. However, adverbs can also be clauses, containing a subject and a full verb. Look at these sentences:

I saw the movie **yesterday**. = one word adverb

I saw the movie **before I left for Paris**. = adverb clause

They both answer the question “When?”, but the adverb clause has a subject (“I”) and a full verb (“left”). It is introduced by “before”, so it is a *dependent clause*. This means that it can’t be on its own. If we just said, “Before I left for Paris”, it would not be a full sentence. It needs a main clause = “I saw the movie”.

There are many types of adverb clauses. Here are some examples of the most common types:

Type	Question answered	Example
Place	Where?	Wherever there are computers, there is Microsoft software.
Time	When?	After the fruit is harvested, it is sold at the market.
Cause	Why? (What caused this?)	I didn't call her because I'm shy.
Purpose	Why? (What was the reason for doing this?)	She took a course so that she could get a better job.
Concession	Why is this unexpected?	Although Rosy has a Master's degree, she works in a store.
Condition	Under what conditions?	If you save your money, you will be able to buy a house.

Most adverb clauses can be recognized because they are introduced by a particular word or phrase. These are called **subordinating conjunctions***, including these:

after, before, until, while, because, since, as, so that, in order that, if, unless, whether, though, although, even though, where

*Does two things. First, shows the importance of the independent clause. Second, it provides a transition between two ideas in the same sentence. The transition always indicates a place, time, or cause and effect relationship. For example:

“We looked in the jar, where Rosy often hides her chocolate.”