

Adverb Clauses

Types of Clauses

A clause is a group of words that contains a subject and verb (predicate). This differs from a phrase, which does not have a subject and a verb, like “to the park.” Clauses can be **independent** or **dependent**.

- **Independent clauses** are called **sentences** as they can stand alone and express a complete thought.
 - **Dependent clauses**, or **subordinate clauses**, are subordinate to something else, usually an independent clause, and depend on it for meaning.
- An Adverb clause has a **subject** and a **verb**.
- An Adverb clause has a **subordinate conjunction**.
- An Adverb clause answers to the questions “**How?**” “**When?**” or “**Why?**”
- An Adverb clause **does not have a complete meaning**.

Ex: *When I went to Europe, I visited the Eiffel Tower.*

The adverb (subordinate) clause: “When I went to Europe”

The independent clause: “I visited the Eiffel Tower”

The subject: “I”

The subordinate conjunction: “When”

The question: “When did you visit the Eiffel Tower?”

Does not have a complete meaning: “When I went to Europe...”

Here is a sampling of subordinate conjunctions:

after	while	until
before	although	as
if	once	even though
because	since	even if
when	unless	where

The order of the clauses can be inverted:

When I went to Europe, I visited the Eiffel Tower.

I visited the Eiffel Tower when I went to Europe.

Both have the same meaning.

Use of “IF”

0 Conditional – is used for **scientific facts or general truths**. ‘If’ can be substituted for ‘when’.

‘If you heat water to 100°C, it boils.’

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1st Conditional – is used with ‘will/can + base verb’ for a **probable future result**.

‘If you study hard, your English will improve.’

‘If I get enough sleep, I will feel better.’

2nd Conditional – uses the ‘simple past’ with ‘modal + base verb’ for **imagined, impossible or unreal future situations**.

‘If I won the lottery, I would buy a plane.’

‘If you met Johnny Depp, what would you ask him?’

3rd Conditional – uses the ‘past perfect’ with ‘modal + have + past participle’. It is usually used to express a **past regret about something which did not happen** in the past.

‘If I had won the lottery, I would have bought a plane.’

‘If I had grown taller, I could have played in the NBA.’