NAME CLASS DATE

for CHAPTER 6: THE CLAUSE pages 120–21

The Adverb Clause

6c. A ***subordinate*** (or ***dependent***) ***clause*** does not express a complete thought and cannot stand by itself as a complete sentence.

SUBORDINATE CLAUSE because his tooth hurt [This clause has a subject, *tooth*, and a verb, *hurt*, but it does not express a complete thought, so it is a subordinate clause.]

One type of subordinate clause is the ***adverb clause.*** Like adverbs, adverb clauses describe a verb, an adjective, or an adverb. Adverb clauses answer the following questions: *How? When? Where? Why? To what extent? How much? How long?* and *Under what conditions?*

Adverb clauses begin with words such as the following:

after	as soon as	in order that	until
although	as though	since	when
as	because	so that	whenever
as if	before	than	where
as long as	how	though	wherever
as much as	if	unless	while

These words connect an adverb clause to the rest of the sentence.

EXAMPLES Katy knocked on the door **until someone opened it.** [The adverb clause describes the verb *knocked*. This clause tells *how long* Katy knocked. The word *until* begins the adverb clause and connects it to the rest of the sentence.]

I laughed more loudly **than I had intended.** [The adverb clause describes the adverb *more*. This clause tells *to what extent* I laughed more loudly. The word *than* begins the adverb clause and connects it to the rest of the sentence.]

EXERCISE A The adverb clause in each of the following sentences has been underlined for you. Circle the word that connects the adverb clause to the rest of the sentence. Hint: The connecting word usually comes at the beginning of an adverb clause.

Example 1. Does Fiona's golden retriever bark loudly whenever it is outside? [The connecting word *whenever* comes at the beginning of the adverb clause.]

1. If the roads are icy, we will stay home. [What word comes at the beginning of the adverb clause?]
2. We won't arrive on time unless we leave home immediately.
3. The clothing at that thrift store was more stylish than I had expected.
4. Until you have seen a bald eagle, you may not appreciate its beauty.
5. Did Jen play guitar while Ed sang?

GO ON

To find an adverb clause, look for the following things in a sentence. If you can answer *yes* to all the questions below, you have probably found an adverb clause.

- Can you find a connecting word (such as *after, because,* or *than*)?
- Do a subject and its verb follow the connecting word?
- Does the group of words contain a connecting word, a subject, and its verb?
- Does the word group describe a verb, and adjective, or an adverb?

NOTE Adverb clauses may be placed in various positions in sentences. When an adverb clause comes at the beginning of a sentence, it is usually followed by a comma.

EXERCISE B Underline the adverb clause in each of the following sentences. Hint: Remember that adverb clauses usually begin with a connecting word.

Examples **1.** After Tim saved fifty dollars, he put it in the bank. [The adverb clause begins with the connecting word *After* and has a subject, *Tim,* and a verb, *saved.*]

2. The VCR will not work if we hook up the cords incorrectly. [The adverb clause begins with the connecting word *if* and has a subject, *we,* and a verb, *hook.*]

6. The crowd stood for the national anthem before the football game began. [Which word can be a connecting word? Is it followed by a verb and its subject?]

7. As long as they are quiet, the children can watch the movie with us. [Which words can be connecting words? Are they followed by a verb and its subject?]

8. There were muddy footprints wherever Natalie had walked.

9. The delicate hummingbird flapped its wings as it flew near the flowers.

10. Because Maria likes comic books, she has a large comic-book collection.

11. Pumpkin seeds are tastier if you toast them.

12. When the river flowed through this area, the water created this valley.

13. Because Willis has studied the fifty states, he knows special facts about each one.

14. If Megan runs in the race this weekend, will she finish in first place?

15. The ground was gray and slushy where a field of snow had not melted yet.