

Combining Sentences Using Subordinate Clauses

Adjective Clauses

An *adjective clause* is used to describe a noun or pronoun. You can combine sentences by turning one sentence into an adjective clause and inserting it into another sentence. Usually, you will need to add a word, such as *who*, *that*, or *which*, at the beginning of the adjective clause.

ORIGINAL The director made this film. He is now quite famous.

COMBINED The director **that made this film** is now quite famous. [The two original sentences are combined to make one complex sentence. The word *that* introduces the adjective clause.]

EXERCISE A Combine each of the following pairs of sentences by turning one sentence into an adjective clause. Remember that you may need to add, delete, or change words. Write your combined sentences on the lines provided.

Example 1. We need someone. The person can talk to anyone. [The second sentence can be turned into an adjective clause. The word *who* is used to introduce the adjective clause.]

We need someone who can talk to anyone.

1. His watch alarm suddenly went off. It had been programmed by his computer. [Which word in the first sentence does the second sentence describe?]

2. The tune stays with me to this day. The tune was a Mexican folk song. [Which word in the first sentence does the second sentence describe?]

3. Every single night, the only book is *Madeline*. My little sister wants it read to her. _____

4. Finally we had gotten every mosquito except for a few. A few got away. _____

5. Ask for directions from the park ranger. He is wearing the red cap. _____

Adverb Clauses

Adverb clauses describe verbs, adjectives, or adverbs. An adverb clause begins with a word such as *after*, *before*, *while*, *until*, *unless*, *when*, *where*, *wherever*, or *although*, which tells the reader how the idea in the adverb clause relates to the rest of the sentence.

ORIGINAL The director made this film. He was very young.

COMBINED **When the director made this film**, he was very young. [The first sentence was turned into an adverb clause. The word *When* introduces the adverb clause.]

ORIGINAL His whole life changed. The film was released.

COMBINED His whole life changed **after the film was released**. [The second sentence was turned into an adverb clause. The word *after* introduces the adverb clause.]

EXERCISE B Combine each of the following pairs of sentences. Use the word in parentheses to turn one of the sentences into an adverb clause. Remember that you may need to add, delete, or change words and punctuation. Write your combined sentences on the lines provided.

Example 1. The tower radioed the pilot. The pilot taxied onto the runway. (Use *when*.) [The first sentence is turned into an adverb clause. The word *When* introduces the adverb clause.]

When the tower radioed the pilot, he taxied onto the runway.

6. Hang the clothes on the line. The washing machine is finished. (Use *after*.) [Which sentence can be changed into an adverb clause?]

7. Joe unloaded the truck. Alison got a signature on the delivery receipt. (Use *while*.)

8. Look people in the eye and shake hands. You meet them. (Use *when*.) _____

9. I had never been to a museum. I came here last year. (Use *before*.) _____

10. You can read your assignment. The dryer is running. (Use *while*.) _____
