

## Grammar Unit 9

### Reduced Adverb Clauses

#### Commonly used subordinators

After / Before / While / Since

#### Examples

1. *While I was **walking** to class, I ran into an old friend.*
  - a. Underline the adverb (dependent) clause.
    - *While I was **walking** to class, I ran into an old friend.*
  - b. Reduce the adverb clause to a modifying phrase (take out the subject and *be* verb).
    - *While **walking** to class, I ran into an old friend.*
2. *After I **had eaten** breakfast, I left for work.*
  - a. Underline the adverb (dependent) clause.
    - *After I **had eaten** breakfast, I left for work.*
  - b. Reduce the adverb clause to a modifying phrase (take out the subject and change the verb to -ing):
    - *After **eating** breakfast, I left for work.*

#### Exercise 1

- 1) Underline the adverb (dependent) clause.
- 2) Reduce the adverb clause to a modifying phrase:

1. Since he bought a computer, he has been able to work faster.

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2. After I had finished my work, I went to the movies.

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3. She broke her leg while she was playing soccer.

She broke her leg while \_\_\_\_\_

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4. You should study hard before you take a test.

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**Exercise 2**

- 1) Circle the subjects of the dependent and independent clauses.
- 2) Underline the adverb (dependent) clause.
- 3) Reduce the adverb clause to a modifying phrase.

1. Since we came here, we've learned a lot of English.

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2. I found the keys after I searched through my desk drawers.

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**Exercise 3**

- 1) Circle the subjects of the dependent and independent clauses.
- 2) Underline the adverb (dependent) clause.
  - While I was driving the car, the baby fell asleep.

**Question A:** In the sentence above, can we reduce the adverb clause to a modifying phrase? (e.g. a phrase like *While driving the car, the baby fell asleep.*) \_\_\_\_\_

**Question B:** If we want to reduce to an adverb phrase, what must be the same in the dependent and independent clauses? \_\_\_\_\_

**Exercise 4**

*If possible, reduce the clauses to phrases.*

1. After the police had stopped the fight, they arrested two men.
2. I had shut off the lights before I left the room.
3. Before Steve had returned to his country, his roommate threw a farewell party for him.
4. Since they left home, they have felt homesick.
5. Tom got a flat tire while he was driving to work.
6. Ken talked to his girlfriend on the phone while his mother was cooking dinner.
7. After the pilot had landed the plane, the flight attendant said, "Goodbye" to the passengers.

**Exercise 5**

Editing: *If possible*, change the underlined clauses to phrases.

There are some steps that airline passengers can take to prevent jet lag. First, before they start their trip, they should drink plenty of water. Also, just before they leave, they should eat a meal with protein and carbohydrates. Next, during the flight, they should avoid all medications or sleeping pills. While they are sitting in the plane, they should do some stretching exercises. Before the flight attendants serve dinner, the passengers should walk around occasionally. Finally, after the bus or taxi drops them off at their hotel, the travelers should take a short nap.