

The Adverb Clause A

15e. An *adverb clause* is a subordinate clause that modifies a verb, an adjective, or an adverb.

An adverb clause tells *where, when, how, why, to what extent, or under what condition*. Unlike an adverb or an adverb phrase, an adverb clause has a subject and a verb.

EXAMPLES Did you see the manatee exhibit **when you visited the aquarium?** [The adverb clause modifies the verb *Did see*, telling *when*.]

The dolphin show was just as entertaining **as it was before.** [The adverb clause modifies the adjective *entertaining*, telling *to what extent*.]

EXERCISE A In each of the following sentences, underline the adverb clause and circle the word or words it modifies.

Example 1. Before I left the aquarium, I had learned many facts about some of our most common sea animals.

1. A lobster fears few enemies because it has a hard, protective shell.
2. A shark can swim faster than a human can.
3. The life expectancy of a sea turtle is not as long as it once was.
4. When an octopus is attacked, it can spray a jet of inky fluid at its opponent.
5. Up close at night, a coral reef is more beautiful than you can imagine.
6. When a moray eel feels threatened, it withdraws into its hiding place.
7. A sea cow can swim faster than you might think.
8. The sting of most jellyfish can be dangerous unless it is treated.
9. A puffer inflates itself like a balloon until its attacker swims away.
10. Ice fish live where temperatures sometimes drop below freezing.

EXERCISE B On the lines provided, complete the adverb clauses in each of the following sentences.

Example 1. No one has broken the shot put record since Alex set it in 1995.

11. While _____, Bert took the lasagna out of the oven.
12. The salsa dancers were upset because _____.
13. The spy hid the documents where _____.
14. As soon as _____, people swarmed into the Amazon jungle.
15. Kim can throw a football farther than _____.