

## A closer look at long sentences

English language has three clauses: Adjective, Noun and Adverb Clauses, and these clauses have different types and functions. If you can detect them when reading long sentences, you can divide the sentences into chunks easier; and this may help you understand the sentences better. What is more, identifying these clauses may help you write structurally more accurate sentences and express yourself better.

For better understanding of these worksheets, note the following:

- SVO = subject + verb + other elements
- Phrase = a group of words.
  - a. Verb Phrase – study biology
  - b. Adjective Phrase – very excited
  - c. Noun Phrase – the massive ship
  - d. Adverb Phrase – too slowly
  - e. Prepositional Phrase – during dinner
- Clause = a clause can be constructed with “that, which, after, since, so that, etc.” OR verb forms “Ving, V3, toV”. For example:

... **who** studies in the US.

... **that** she will see London at last.

... **when** the parcel was delivered to the wrong address.

☞ The verbs in these clauses have a tense; therefore, these clauses are called “finite”.

... the student **studying** in the US.

... **to see** London at last.

... **delivered** to the wrong address.

☞ The verbs in these clauses don't have a tense; therefore, these clauses are called “non-finite”.

### Types of Clauses:

#### A. Adjective Clause

Celebrations such as weddings are often times **when families gather together**.

The girl **eating ice-cream** is my daughter. (non-finite)

#### B. Noun Clause

**When families gather together** is what sociology is interested in.

**Eating / To eat ice-cream** on a hot day is delightful. (non-finite)

#### C. Adverb Clause

**When families gather together**, there is either a wedding or a funeral.

**Eating ice-cream**, she nearly got chocked. (non-finite)

Let's look into the following sentences:

1. So **when making mental lists of the most excellent technological creations in our lives**, it's not surprising that we may overlook the book – *which is superbly designed, very functional and passionately beloved*.
  - a. "when making mental lists of the most excellent technological creations in our lives"  
This part is an Adverb Clause of **Time** because there is the linker "when". The clause tells us the time of the action in the main sentence (action= "overlook"). This adverb clause is non-finite (reduced) because the verb "make" has no tense.

✎ Ving alone cannot tell us the tense of the verb.

Therefore, if the subjects of the main and the adverb clause are the same, you can make the adverb clause non-finite by omitting its subject and tense:

**When we make mental lists of the most excellent technological creations in our lives**,  
(subject)

it's not surprising that **we** may overlook the book. =  
(subject)

**When *making* mental lists of the most excellent technological creations in our lives**,  
it's not surprising that we may overlook the book.

(In the second sentence, you can see that the subject 'we' has been omitted because it is the same subject that is in the main sentence).

✎ Remember that if the verb is *active* you change it into Ving (as in the sentence above); but if it is passive you change it into V3. For example:

- **Before he visited Australia**, Marcus had never seen a kangaroo. (Active)  
**Before *visiting* Australia**, Marcus had never seen a kangaroo.
- **All visitors** will wait at the gate **until they are invited** (Passive)  
All visitors will wait at the gate **until *invited***

✎ Note that if you are making a passive non-finite adverb clause of Time with the linkers "after, before, since" you need to use "being V3" instead of V3.

For example: After being invited a couple of times, the professor agreed to make a speech at the college graduation ceremony.

- b. "it's not surprising that we may overlook the book"

This chunk is an example of a very common Noun Clause = It be (not) adjective thatSVO.

The same sentence could have been constructed as shown below. The meaning and translation of both sentences are the same, but the second version is more common.

That we may overlook the book is not surprising = It's not surprising that we may overlook the book

More examples:

- i. That the government needs to do more in its fight against corruption is obvious.

**It be adjective thatSVO**

It is obvious that the government needs to do more in its fight against corruption.

- ii. That children should be raised in loving environments is my firm belief.

**It be noun thatSVO**

It is my firm belief that children should be raised in loving environments.

- iii. That the world is not flat can still be denied by some horribly ignorant people.

**It be V3 thatSVO**

It can still be denied by some horribly ignorant people that the world is not flat.

2. The advent of the e-book readers such as Amazon Kindle, Kobo Reader and Sony Reader and the launch of the smart devices like iPhone and iPad have been a turning point in digitizing the long form of reading because their real breakthrough comes from a feature that was previously never offered: wireless connectivity via mobile devices, **allowing them to work anywhere**.

- a. Can you see how long a subject can get? The underlined part is the subject of the sentence, and the reference words “their” and “them” in the rest of the sentence refer to this subject.

- b. In previous worksheets\*, “, which” and its non-finite (reduced) form was given. Let’s remember once again:

In the sentence above, “, allowing them to work anywhere” is a non-finite adjective clause. It modifies/describes the noun phrase “wireless connectivity via mobile devices”. In other words,

“, allowing them to work anywhere” = “, which allows them to work anywhere”

\* You can refer to the following worksheets to review the previous explanations and examples:

Unit 1 – Transhumanism - A Closer Look at Long Sentences Handout – sentence 3

Unit 2 – Online Identities - A Closer Look at Long Sentences Handout – sentence 2

3. Computers may have taken over every other stage of the book-writing process - the tools of research, drafting and production - but that final mile of the process, **where the reader mind-melds with the author in a fine asynchronous tango**, would always be sacred, *said the opponents of e-book readers*.

In the first Handout of the ‘A Closer Look at Long Sentences’ series, “Adjective Clauses with **where**” was explained as shown below:

Example: The Earth may eventually reach a stage where humanity will end itself.

As can be seen, the adjective pronoun “where” is not used only after place names (e.g.: school, Ankara, their house, etc.). You can also use it when modifying nouns like: “position”, “level”, “stage”, “circumstances”, etc.

And in the bold part of the sentence we see a perfect example of this explanation. This is an adjective clause describing the noun phrase “that final mile of the process”.

4. It is inevitable that in the near future physical bookstores will be lonelier places, **as digital reading leads us into an exciting new era as long as the batteries are charged.**

In this sentence, there are two Adverb Clauses. In fact, the second one is embedded into the first one!

**Adverb Clause of Reason** = as digital reading leads us into an exciting new era as long as the batteries are charged.

**Adverb Clause of Condition** = as long as the batteries are charged

Note: Adverb Clauses have many categories of meaning because of the wide variety of linkers. See the table below to review your previous knowledge of these adverb clause linkers:

TIME	CONDITION	MANNER	REASON	CONCESSION	PURPOSE	PLACE
Once When While After Before Since As soon as Whenever By the time <i>etc.</i>	If Unless As long as On condition that Provided that <i>etc.</i>	As As if As though Like In the way that <i>etc.</i>	Because As Since Now that Seeing that <i>etc.</i>	Although (Even) though While Whereas However adj/adv No matter + question word Despite the fact that <i>etc.</i>	In order that So that So Lest	Where Wherever Everywhere
WHEN?	ON CONDITION WHAT?	HOW?	WHY?	DESPITE WHAT?	FOR WHAT?	WHERE?

Adverb Clauses answer these questions about the verb of the main clause and can be placed before or after the main clause or between the subject and the verb of the main clause.

Linker SVO, SVO = SVO, linker SVO = S, linker SVO, VO  
 Adverb Clause Main Clause                      Main Clause Adverb Clause                      Adverb Clause

✎ The following three examples show how adverb clauses enable us to tell more about the main verb.

- I will quit my job                      next month.                      TIME  
 when the manager returns from his business trip.
- I will quit my job                      because of the low pay.                      REASON  
 because the manager resists giving me a pay rise.
- I will quit my job                      despite the atmosphere of the workplace.                      CONCESSION  
 although I enjoy working with all my colleagues.