# Table of Contents

Quick and Handy Grammar Review: Adverb Clauses ........................................ 2

Time words and phrases chart ........................................................................ 2-3

**Exercise 1:**
*Error Correction. Correct the errors in the sentences.*  ................................ 4

**Exercise 2:**
*Insert the correct adverb into the blanks.* .................................................. 5

**Exercise 3:**
*Based on the time schedule, make sentences with certain words.* ............... 6

**Exercise 4:**
*Are the sentences correct? Circle the correct answers.* ............................... 7

**Exercise 5:**
*Choose the appropriate verb tense to use with the time phrases.* ............... 8

**Exercise 6:**
*Write sentences with past and future constructions.* ................................ 9

**Exercise 7:**
*Choose the appropriate verb tense to use with the time clauses.* ............... 10

**Exercise 8:**
*Choose the appropriate verb tense to use with the time clauses.* ............... 11

**Answer Key** .................................................................................................. 12
Quick and Handy Grammar Review: Adverb Clauses

Phrases and Clauses:  
A **phrase** is a group of words that does not form a complete sentence.  
A **clause** is a group of words (with a subject and a verb) that forms a complete sentence.

There are two types of clauses: an **independent** clause, which is a complete sentence, and a **dependent** clause, which requires the presence of an independent clause to make up a complete sentence. Dependent clauses serve the function of a noun, adverb, or adjective.

In this unit, we will discuss **Adverb Clauses of Time**.

There are usually two possible structures to the sentences that use adverb clauses of time:

1. Adverb + subject + verb (,) subject + verb.
2. Subject + verb (no punctuation) adverb + subject + verb

**Time words and phrases:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Notes</th>
<th>Use in the present</th>
<th>Use in the past</th>
<th>Use in the future</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>after</strong></td>
<td>These four phrases are similar in use. <em>As soon as</em> implies more immediacy. <em>Once</em> is less common, used more in poetry.</td>
<td>Term SV, SV.</td>
<td>Term SV, SV.</td>
<td>Term SV, SV.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>when</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>The verbs are both in the simple present.</td>
<td>The verbs are both used in the simple past [some strict grammar books require the use of the past perfect in the time clause].</td>
<td>The verb in the time clause is used in the simple past; in the other clause, the simple future is used.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>once</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>Term SV, SV.</td>
<td>Term SV, SV.</td>
<td>Term SV, SV.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>as soon as</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>The verbs are both in the simple present.</td>
<td>The verbs are both used in the simple past.</td>
<td>The verb in the time clause is used in the simple past; in the other clause, the simple future is used.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>before</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>Term SV, SV.</td>
<td>Term SV, SV.</td>
<td>Term SV, SV.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>while</strong></td>
<td>These two phrases are similar in use. <em>While</em> is more common.</td>
<td>Term SV, SV.</td>
<td>Term SV, SV.</td>
<td>Term SV, SV.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>as</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><em>While</em> and <em>as</em> are followed by the present progressive. The other clause is in the simple past.</td>
<td><em>While</em> and <em>as</em> are followed by the past progressive. The other clause is in the simple past.</td>
<td><em>While</em> and <em>as</em> are followed by the present progressive. The other clause is in the simple future.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>until</strong></td>
<td>Until <em>never</em> begins a sentence. It is always used in the middle.</td>
<td>SV until SV. Both verbs are in the simple present.</td>
<td>SV until SV. Both verbs are in the simple past.</td>
<td>SV until SV. The verb in the first clause is in the simple future. The verb in the second clause is in the simple present.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>since</strong></td>
<td>Since is only used for past meaning.</td>
<td>Not used.</td>
<td>SV since SV. The verb in the first clause is in the present perfect (or present perfect progressive). The verb in the second clause is in the simple past.</td>
<td>Not used.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adverb Clauses of Time</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>whenever</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Every time</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As long as</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By the time</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Whenever SV, SV.       |
| Simple present in both clauses. |
| Whenever SV, SV.       |
| Simple past in both clauses. |
| Not used.              |
| Every SV, SV.          |
| Simple present in both tenses. |
| Every SV, SV.          |
| Simple past in both tenses. |
| Not used.              |
| SV as long as SV       |
| The verb in the first clause is in the simple future; the other verb is in the simple present. |
| Not used.              |
| By the time SV, SV.    |
| The verb in the time clause is in the simple past; the other verb is in the past perfect. |
| By the time SV, SV.    |
| The verb in the time clause is in the simple past; the other verb is in the future perfect. |

Study these examples (and note which adverb clauses only have one structural possibility):

1. After I get home, I always check my email. / I always check my email after I get home.
2. When she lived in Montreal, she spoke French every day. / She spoke French every day when she lived in Montreal.
3. As soon as Bob finishes his studies, he will move back to England. / Bob will move back to English as soon as he finishes his studies.
4. Before Vicky goes to bed, she has a cup of warm milk. / Vicky has a cup of warm milk before she goes to bed.
5. Before Edward finished his dinner, he had to leave. / Edward had to leave before he finished his dinner.
6. Before Isis leaves for China, she will call you. / Isis will call you before she leaves for China.
7. While I was studying for the exam, the phone rang. / The phone rang while I was studying for the exam.
8. As Ashley was leaving the house, she saw a squirrel on the lawn. / Ashley saw a squirrel on the lawn as she was leaving the house.
9. Frank usually works until he finishes his tasks.
10. I will love you until I die.
11. Leslie has worked at Ninley’s since she came to Minnesota.
12. Omar has lived on 66th Street since he moved to Vancouver.
13. Whenever I see my old boss, I get nervous. / I get nervous whenever I see my old boss.
14. Whenever Jack walked to another part of the city, he got lost. / Jack got lost whenever he walked to another part of the city.
15. Every time Peter calls me, we talk for an hour. / Peter and I talk for an hour whenever he calls me.
16. Every time Rachel went to the library, she met Juan. / Rachel met Juan every time she went to the library.
17. I will never call you again as long as I live.
18. By the time Mel got to the theater, the film had already started. / The film had already started by the time Mel got to the theater.
19. By the time the doctor got to the emergency room, the patient had died. / The patient had died by the time the doctor got to the emergency room.
20. By the time Sharon gets home tonight, Aunt Sally will have left. / Aunt Sally will have left by the time Sharon gets home tonight.
Exercise 1:
*Error Correction. Correct the errors in the following sentences.*

1. While Nestor walking to school, he was meeting his teacher.

2. As I fell asleep last night, I was seeing a bright light out the window.

3. When Jack saw Maria, he was falling in love.

4. By the time Carl had arrived home, his mother left.

5. I love you until you will die.

6. Whenever I am seeing Brett, I am getting sad.

7. Before he was waking up yesterday, he had a cup of coffee.

8. I work until I will finish the job.

9. By the time Kendrick had turned on the TV, the program had been ended.

10. Shirley worked at that company since she has moved to Connecticut.
Exercise 2:
Insert the correct adverb into the blanks. Choose from the following list (adverbs can be used more than once):

until          when          by the time          after          as long as          while

1. I will never go to that restaurant again __________________________ I live.

2. I will not come to your house __________________________ you apologize.

3. She was fired __________________________ they found out she had stolen $500.

4. __________________________ the team lost its first game, all the players were sad.

5. __________________________ my sister got home last night, I had already gone to bed.

6. __________________________ Hanna ate breakfast, she washed the dishes.

7. __________________________ my mother came, I had already left.

8. Mary will stay with the baby __________________________ the babysitter comes.

9. __________________________ Josie was sleeping last night, she had an incredible dream.

10. __________________________ John's mother finishes cooking school, she will get a job in a restaurant.
Exercise 3:
*Here are Lisa’s activities yesterday.*

7:00    came home
7:10    checked her messages
7:20    drank a glass of iced tea
7:21    microwaved a frozen meal
7:30–7:40    ate dinner
7:30–7:40    read the newspaper
8:00    her favorite TV program started
8:05    turned on the television
9:00    fell asleep on the couch

Based on the time schedule, make sentences with these words:

1. At precisely 7:32 last night, **S V**

2. While **S V**, **S V** (7:30–7:40)

3. By the time **S V**, **S V** (8:00–8:05)

4. As soon as **S V**, **S V** (7:00–7:10)

5. Before **S V**, **S V** (7:20–7:21)
Exercise 4:
Are the following sentences correct? Circle the correct answers on the right.

1. I have never been visiting that country. Yes  No

2. Every summer she is going to the beach. Yes  No

3. I have loved you since I first saw your beautiful eyes. Yes  No

4. Next Sunday at 3:00 p.m., she will be sitting in a movie theatre. Yes  No

5. In 2020, Hyunseon will be return to his country. Yes  No

6. Henry’s brother has been in jail since 2006. Yes  No

7. By the time Ray got to the airport, the plane left. Yes  No

8. While John driving to school, he was drinking coffee. Yes  No

9. After Maria takes Biology and History, she takes Physics. Yes  No

10. Kathy was still sleeping at 6:00 a.m. yesterday. Yes  No
Exercise 5:
*Choose the appropriate verb tense (the common one) to use with the following time phrases.*

1. Last year
   - a. simple present
   - b. simple future
   - c. simple past
   - d. past progressive

2. Last night at exactly 7:00 p.m.
   - a. simple present
   - b. simple future
   - c. simple past
   - d. past progressive

3. Tomorrow night at precisely 9:30 p.m.
   - a. future progressive
   - b. simple future
   - c. simple past
   - d. past progressive

4. Every afternoon (including this afternoon)
   - a. simple present
   - b. simple future
   - c. simple past
   - d. present progressive

5. Since
   - a. simple present
   - b. simple past
   - c. present perfect
   - d. present progressive

6. While
   - a. simple present
   - b. simple past
   - c. simple past
   - d. past progressive

7. In 1981
   - a. simple present
   - b. simple future
   - c. simple past
   - d. past progressive

8. In 2025
   - a. simple present
   - b. simple future
   - c. simple past
   - d. present progressive

9. This semester
   - a. simple present
   - b. simple future
   - c. present progressive
   - d. past progressive

10. By the time
    - a. simple present
    - b. past perfect
    - c. simple past
    - d. past progressive
Exercise 6:

Here are John Brown's activities on Thursday night:

6:00–6:50 Eats dinner
6:00–6:50 Talks to his family about the blizzard
6:55 His mother calls
7:00 Washes his face
7:05–7:15 Waits for his brother
7:15 His brother arrives
7:15 Leaves the house
7:30 The movie starts
7:40 Arrives at the movie theatre

Write sentences with the following constructions:

Pretend that the actions happened yesterday. The sentences should be in the past.

1. At precisely 6:45 last night, S V
2. While S V, S V (6:30–6:40)
3. Before S V, S V (6:32–7:00)
4. As soon as S V, S V (7:15)
5. By the time S V, S V (6:30–7:40)

Pretend that the actions will happen tomorrow. Use the future tense.

1. As soon as S V, S V (7:15)
2. By the time S V, S V (7:30–7:40)
3. While S V, S V (6:00–6:50)
4. After S V, S V (7:00–7:15)
5. At precisely 6:55 tomorrow, S V
Exercise 7:
Choose the appropriate verb tense (the common one) to use with the following time clauses.

1. While I ___________ hard tomorrow, I will think of you, you lazy dog.
   a. will work  b. am working  c. work  d. will be working

2. ______________ I saw Kristina for the first time, I thought she had a mustache.
   a. if  b. when  c. while  d. after

3. As soon as I get home, I ______________ you.
   a. will call  b. call  c. am going call  d. calling

4. Yesterday, after I ______________ dinner, my sister came over.
   a. will finish  b. finish  c. had finished  d. finishing

5. The movie ______________ by the time I got to the theater.
   a. started  b. had started  c. starts  d. was start

6. I ______________ you since I ______________ you.
   a. have hated / met  b. hate / me  c. have hated / have met  d. will hate / meet

7. Yesterday, while I ______________ dinner, my mother ______________.
   a. ate / called  b. was eat / called  c. was eating / was calling  d. was eating / called.

8. Tomorrow, while I ______________ dinner, I ______________ the newspaper.
   a. eat / read  b. am eating / will read  c. eating / will read  d. will be reading / will read.

9. By the time I got to the game, it ______________.
   a. had started  b. has started  c. will have started  d. started  e. starts

10. I ______________ you when I arrive in Korea.
    a. would call  b. will call  c. called  d. call  e. calls
Exercise 8:
Choose the appropriate verb tense (the common one) to use with the following time clauses.

1. Yesterday at 8:00 p.m., ______________
   a. she will study  b. she studies  c. she was studying  d. she had studied

2. Tomorrow after I _____________ class, I will go to that new restaurant.
   a. finishes  b. will finish  c. have finished  d. finish

3. Every time I _____________ his face, I get sick to my stomach.
   a. will see  b. saw  c. see  d. have seen

4. Two days ago, their car broke down while they ________________ to Philadelphia.
   a. drove  b. was driving  c. were driving  d. drive

5. Tomorrow, while I _________________, I will think of you watching TV on the couch.
   a. will be working  b. am working  c. works  d. worked

6. I will call you _______________ I get back from the party.
   a. because  b. as soon as  c. while  d. as

7. She has not even looked at another man _______________ she married Tom two weeks ago.
   a. since  b. when  c. before  d. while

8. I will love you _______________ I die.
   a. as soon as  b. after  c. until  d. when

9. The fire alarm rang ____________ Ned was working in his office yesterday.
   a. while  b. as soon as  c. until  d. before

10. By the time Oscar got to the airport, the plane ________________.
   a. had already left  b. left  c. will leave  d. leaving
Answer Key

Exercise 1: Correct the errors in the following sentences.
1. While Nestor was walking to school, he met his teacher.
2. As I was falling asleep last night, I saw a bright light out the window.
3. When Jack saw Maria, he fell in love.
4. By the time Carl arrived home, his mother had left.
5. I will love you until I die. [the other version is not very romantic]
6. Whenever I see Brett, I get sad.
7. After he woke up yesterday, he had a cup of coffee.
8. I will work until I finish the job.
9. By the time Kendrick turned on the TV, the program had ended.
10. Shirley has worked at that company since she moved to Connecticut.

Exercise 2: Insert the correct discourse marker in the blanks.
1. as long as 2. until 3. when, after 4. when 5. by the time 6. after 7. by the time 8. until 9. while 10. when, once, after

Exercise 3: Based on the time schedule, make sentences with these words:
1. At precisely 7:32 last night, Lisa was eating dinner.
2. While she was eating dinner, she read the newspaper.
3. By the time she turned on the TV, her favorite program had already started.
4. As soon as she got home, she checked her messages.
5. Before she microwaved a frozen meal, she drank a glass of iced tea.

Exercise 4: Are the following sentences correct?

Exercise 5: Choose the appropriate verb tense to use in the sentences with the following time phrases.

Exercise 6: Pretend that the actions happened yesterday. The sentences should be in the past.
1. At precisely 6:45 last night, John was eating dinner.
2. While John was eating dinner, he talked to his family about the blizzard.
3. Before he washed his face, his mother called.
4. As soon as John’s brother arrived, they left the house.
5. By the time they arrived at the theatre, the movie had already started.

Exercise 6 cont.: Pretend that the actions will happen tomorrow. Use the future tense.
1. As soon as his brother arrives, they will leave the house.
2. By the time they get to the theatre, the movie will have started.
3. While John is eating dinner, he will talk to his family about the blizzard.
4. After he washes his face, he will leave the house.
5. At precisely 6:55 tomorrow, John’s mother will call.

Exercise 7: Choose the appropriate verb tense to use in the sentences with the following time clauses.

Exercise 8: Choose the appropriate verb tense to use in the sentences with the following time clauses.

Spelling Note: This lesson shows the American spelling of the words Theater and Favorite. Most other English-speaking countries spell these words this way: Theatre and Favourite. Make it a challenge for your students to find these words in the lesson and see if they know the alternate spellings.