

## Reduced Adverb Clauses

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Instructor: \_\_\_\_\_

Course: \_\_\_\_\_

### About This DLA

#### ***Important Note***

All the activities (3) in the DLA must be completed in their entirety before meeting with a tutor and receiving credit. Where indicated, complete your work on this sheet. If your instructor wants evidence of this completed DLA, return this form to him or her with the tutor's signature included.

#### ***Learning Outcomes***

Through computer and other independent work, this activity will familiarize you with reduced adverb clauses and help you create sentences with accurate use of such clauses.

#### ***Activities (approximately 1 hour)***

Read the information, complete the activities that follow, and be prepared to discuss your answers when you meet with a tutor.

### Understanding Adverb Clauses

An adverb clause is a group of words that starts with a subordinating conjunction (a word that signals *how*, *when*, or *why* something is done) and has a subject and a verb. However, because it starts with a subordinating conjunction, the clause becomes a dependent clause. It cannot stand alone because it is not a complete idea, so it must be joined with an independent clause.

While I am cooking,

adverb clause

I like to listen to the radio.

independent clause

\*See "Conjunctions, Transitions, & Subordinators" (yellow card) in the Writing Center for more information.

#### ***Reduced Adverb Clauses***

In a sentence, when you have the same subject in both the main clause and the adverb clause, you can reduce the adverb clause to avoid repeating the subject. The reduced adverb clause then becomes an adverb phrase, which does not have a subject. The adverb phrase consists of a conjunction and a present participle (base verb + *ing*) for the active voice or a past participle for the passive voice.

Sentence with Adverb Clause	Sentence with Reduced Adverb Clause
<b>Before</b> <span>I</span> came to the U.S., <span>I</span> had taken some English classes..	<b>Before coming to the U.S.,</b> I had taken some English classes.
<span>Fainting goats</span> stiffen and fall over <b>when</b> <span>they</span> are startled.	Fainting goats stiffen and fall over <b>when startled.</b>
<b>After</b> <span>he</span> finished his homework, <span>Peter</span> went to bed.	<b>After finishing his homework,</b> Peter went to bed.

Remember that only sentences with the **same subject** in both the main clause and the adverb clause can be reduced. If there is a different subject in each clause, the sentence **cannot be reduced**.

- ❖ **While** I was walking home, a frog jumped out of the bushes.
- ❖ ~~**While walking home,**~~ a frog jumped out of the bushes. (incorrect)  
(This sentence is incorrect because it seems like **a frog** was walking home.)

### ***How to Reduce an Adverb Clause***

If you want to reduce an adverb clause, make sure that the same subject is present in both clauses, and then follow these steps:

#### **1. Omit the subject of the adverb (dependent) clause.**

- While ~~she was driving to school~~, Betty got a flat tire.
- I ate breakfast ~~before I left for work~~.
- My dog will run to the street ~~when he is given the chance~~.

#### **2. Omit the be form of the verb if there is one.**

- ~~While was driving to school~~, Betty got a flat tire.
- I ate breakfast ~~before left for work~~. (no *be*)
- My dog will run to the street ~~when is given the chance~~.

#### **3. Change the verb to its present participle form (–ing) for the active voice, or leave it as the past participle for the passive voice.**

- **While** driving to school, Betty got a flat tire. (active voice→present participle)
- I ate breakfast **before** leaving for work. (active voice→present participle)
- My dog will run to the street **when** given the chance. (passive voice→past participle)

### ***A Quick Note about Active and Passive Voice***

We use the passive voice when we want to focus on the object (the person or thing **receiving** the action) and NOT the agent (the person or thing **doing** the action).

- ❖ **Active:** A dog (agent) bit the man (object).

❖ **Passive:** [The man (object)] **was bitten** (*be + past participle*) by [a dog (agent)].

\*See the Passive Voice DLA for more information.

## Adverb Clauses of Reason

Sometimes adverb clauses of reason (clauses that begin with the conjunction *because*) can be reduced, but you also have to omit the conjunction.

- ❖ Because she hopes to get a degree in accounting, Cathy went back to school.
- ❖ **Hoping** to get a degree in accounting, Cathy went back to school.

## Activities

Check off each box once you have completed the activity.

### ☐ 1. Reduced Adverb Clause Review

Review the information on this sheet. Then, answer the following questions.

When can you reduce adverb clauses?

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What are the steps to reducing an adverb clause?

a.

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b.

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c.

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### ☐ 2. Online Quiz

Go to <http://tinyurl.com/ReducedAdverbClausesDLAQuiz> and take the [Reduced Adverb Clauses DLA Quiz](#). You must score at least 80% on the exercises before seeing a tutor. After you complete the task, **PLEASE ASK A LAB TUTOR OR FRONT DESK ATTENDANT TO PRINT THE PAGE THAT HAS YOUR SCORE. DO NOT EXIT THE PROGRAM UNTIL THIS PAGE HAS BEEN PRINTED (FREE OF CHARGE).** If you have any other questions, do not hesitate to ask a lab tutor.

## Choose 3a or 3b Below

### ☐ 3a. Review Your Own Writing

Collect some of your graded work. Find and write down FOUR sentences with adverb clauses that can be reduced. Write down the original sentence (with the adverb clause), then reduce the sentence (with a new adverb phrase).

1a. Original Sentence:

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1b. Reduced Sentence:

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2a. Original Sentence:

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2b. Reduced Sentence:

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3a. Original Sentence:

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3b. Reduced Sentence:

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4a. Original Sentence:

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4b. Reduced Sentence

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**If you do not have your own essay to work with, please complete the supplemental activity below (3b).**

☐ **3b. Reduced Adverb Clause Practice**

Reduce the adverb clauses found in the following sentences.

1. Kelly always watches TV **after she finishes her homework.**

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2. Butter melts quickly **when it is heated.**

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3. **While they are studying for tests,** students should avoid all distractions.

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4. **Before you attend the workshop**, you must first register in person or by phone.

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5. Peter has received many job offers **since he finished his degree**.

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6. **Because he lacks the money to buy a car**, Dan has to take the bus to work..

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#### ☐ 4. Review

Go to <https://mtsac2.mywconline.com> and use the [Mt. SAC Writing Center Appointment System](#) to make a DLA appointment, or sign-up to see a tutor on the "**DLA Walk-in**" list in the Writing Center. During your session with a tutor, discuss your work to demonstrate your understanding of reduced adverb clauses. Refer to your own graded writing (or the completed activity) and explain to the tutor strategies that you used to create sentences with reduced adverb clauses.

Student's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Tutor's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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