

# The Writing Center

## DLA Reduced Adverb Clauses



This DLA is a writable PDF form. You can enter your answers directly into this document.

**YOU MUST DOWNLOAD AND SAVE THIS FILE TO YOUR COMPUTER.**

**Do not complete this form in a web browser. You will not be able to save your work.**

Student Name:

### Important Note

To get completion credit for this DLA, make sure you complete all the required activities. If you'd like help while working on a specific DLA, you can meet with a specialist at the Writing Center. Keep in mind that you might need to schedule a second appointment to review your work, check your understanding, and get your completion credit. You can only review **ONE** DLA per appointment. (Check the last section of this DLA for information on making your appointment and receiving completion credit for your work).

### 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

### 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
Before I came to the U.S., I had taken some English classes.	Before coming to the U.S., I had taken some English classes.
Fainting goats stiffen and fall over when they are startled.	Fainting goats stiffen and fall over when startled.
After he finished his homework, Peter went to bed.	After finishing his homework, 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?

What are the steps to reducing an adverb clause?

a.

b.

c.

## 2. Online Quiz

Go to <http://tinyurl.com/reducedadverbclausesdlaquiz> and take the DLA quiz. You must score at least 75% on the quiz before meeting with a specialist. After you complete the task, please take a screenshot of the page that has your score and show it to your specialist. Do not exit the quiz until you take the screenshot.

### **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:

1b. Reduced Sentence:

2a. Original Sentence:

2b: Reduced Sentence:

3a: Original Sentence:

3b: Reduced Sentence:

4a: Original Sentence:

4b: Reduced Sentence

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.**
2. Butter melts quickly **when it is heated.**
3. **While they are studying for tests,** students should avoid all distractions.
4. **Before you attend the workshop,** you must first register in person or by phone.
5. Peter has received many job offers **since he finished his degree.**
6. **Because he lacks the money to buy a car,** Dan has to take the bus to work.

**4. Review the DLA/Receive Completion Credit**

1. Go to [EAB Navigate](#) and make an appointment (online or in-person).
2. Attend your session and be prepared to explain your understanding of the information you've learned in the DLA. Consider the main concept you learned and how you might use this in your future assignments/classes.
3. If your professor asks you to provide proof, you can review the "appointment summary report" through EAB Navigate (app or desktop). You will find all Writing Center appointments under "appointment summary reports" (app or desktop). Look for the summary report for your DLA appointment. This is where your writing specialist will indicate the title of your DLA and state whether it is "completed" or "not completed." If it is marked as "not completed," book a follow up appointment to complete.

Note: Appointment summary reports are also sent weekly to your instructor on record. If there is an issue, please contact us at [writingcenter@mtsac.edu](mailto:writingcenter@mtsac.edu) or (909) 274-5325.

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