

Complex structures

Adverb clauses

Adverb clauses are dependent clauses which work as adverbs. They can show a number of different relationships between the clauses in the sentence. They begin with a subordinator which is the word which signifies the relationship. For example:

Type of relationship	Subordinators	Example
Contrast	while, even though, although, whereas	Even though he injured his arm, he played at the match.
Time	when, before, after, while, as	I managed to arrive home before it started to rain.
Reason	because, as	I don't want to go to the movies because I feel really tired.
Conditional	if, as long as, unless	As long as you finish your homework, you can go to the park.

Hypothetical questions are common in Part 3 of the test. For this, you can use one of the following conditional structures using the subordinator **if**.

Type of conditional	Structure	Example
Zero	S + V (present simple) + if + S (present simple) + V	If it rains, tennis lessons are cancelled.
First	S + V (future simple) + if + S (present simple) + V	I will visit my parents after work if I have time.
Second	S + (would) V + if + S (past simple) + V	I would buy a car if I had enough money.
Third	S + (would have) V (past participle) + if + S (past perfect) + V	If I hadn't been unwell, I would have gone to the beach.

Noun clauses

Noun clauses are dependent clauses which function as nouns. Like nouns, they can be subjects or objects in sentences. Common noun clauses are as follows:

Subordinator	Example
That	I know that some sportsmen and sportswomen make a lot of money.
When	I do not know when the university term starts.
How	I am not sure how university education will change in the future.
Where	I don't know where the test will take place.

Adjective clauses

Adjective clauses are dependent clauses which function as adjectives and provide extra information about a noun. Examples:

Type of noun described	Subordinator	Example
Person	who/that	The person who I talked to on the phone did not really understand my question.
Thing	which/that	I don't understand the technology which is used in the courses.
Place	where	The company where I work employs more than one hundred people.
Reason	why	The reason why I am taking the IELTS test is because I want to go to university.