

Adverbials 1

(Advanced Grammar in Use)

Unit 79

Adverbial clauses of time

A As, when and while

Reminder → M1 & M8

We can often use **as**, **when** or **while** to mean 'during the time that', to talk about something that happens when something else takes place:

- ☐ **As / When / While** Miguel was eating, the doorbell rang.

We use **when** (*not as* or *while*) to introduce a clause which talks about –

☆ an event that takes place at the same time as some longer event (in the main clause):

- ☐ They were playing in the garden **when** they heard a scream.

☆ the circumstances in which the event in the main clause happens:

- ☐ **When** they are fully grown these snakes can be over two metres long.

We also use **when** to mean 'every time', and we prefer **when** to talk about past periods of our lives:

- ☐ I still feel tired **when** I wake up in the morning. (= 'every time')
- ☐ His mother called him Robbie **when** he was a baby. (= a past period)

We prefer **when** if one event happens immediately after another, particularly if one causes the other:

- ☐ You'll see my house on the right **when** you cross the bridge.
- ☐ **When** the lights went out, I lit some candles.

In the first sentence, 'as' or 'while' would suggest 'during the time that' and the continuous would be more likely ('... as / while you are crossing ...'). In the second sentence 'as' or 'while' would be very unlikely because lights usually go out instantaneously.

We prefer **as** to say that when one thing changes, another thing changes at the same time:

- ☐ **As** the cheese matures, its flavour improves. (*rather than* When the cheese ...)

We can also use 'While ...', particularly with a continuous tense: 'While the cheese is maturing ...'.

We prefer **while** or **as** (rather than **when**) to talk about two longer actions that go on at the same time, although **while** is more common than **as** in informal speech:

- ☐ I went shopping **while** Liam cleaned the house. (*or ... as* Liam cleaned ...)

We use **while** or **when** (rather than **as**) to avoid ambiguity where 'as' could mean 'because':

- ☐ **While** you were playing golf, I went to the cinema. (As you were playing ... = Because ...)

B Before, after and until

We use **before** or **after** to talk about an event happening earlier or later than another event:

- ☐ I put on my coat **before** I went out.
- ☐ The message arrived **after** I'd left.

We can often use either **until** or **before** when a situation continues to happen up to a time indicated in the adverbial clause:

- ☐ I had to wait six weeks **until** / **before** the parcel arrived.

However, we use **until** to talk about an action that continues to a particular time and then stops:

- ☐ They sat on the beach **until** the sun sank below the horizon, and then they went home.

and when the adverbial clause describes the *result* of an action in the main clause:

- ☐ He cleaned his shoes **until** they shone. ('shining' is the result of 'cleaning'.)

C Hardly, no sooner, scarcely

When we say that one event happened immediately after another we can use sentences with **hardly**, **no sooner**, and **scarcely** (see also Unit 100). After **hardly** and **scarcely** the second clause begins with **when** or **before**; after **no sooner** it begins with **than** or **when**:

- ☐ The concert had **hardly** begun *before* all the lights went out.
- ☐ I had **no sooner** lit the barbecue *than* / *when* it started to rain.

We often use a past perfect in the clause with **hardly** (etc.), **no sooner** or **scarcely** and a past simple in the other.

79.1 Complete these sentences with *as*, *when*, or *while*.

- 1 She fell over she kicked the ball.
- 2 we were younger our parents had to pay for our music lessons.
- 3 I speak Spanish, I talk slowly to help people understand me.
- 4 I packed all the books away, Lana made a note of their titles on her laptop.
- 5 She stayed at home watching television her brother was at school.
- 6 Where did you live you got married?
- 7 the results started to come in, it became clear that President Como had lost the election.
- 8 The humidity started to increase the day wore on.
- 9 The snow was getting deeper and deeper we waited for the train to arrive.
- 10 the paint dries it changes colour from a light to a deep red.

79.2 If necessary, correct or improve these sentences. If no correction or improvement is necessary, write "correct". Write the complete sentence for each correction.

- 1 As I'm older I'd love to be a dancer.
- 2 When the boy watched in fascination, the ants picked up the dead beetle and carried it off to their nest.
- 3 The disk drive makes a buzzing sound while I switch my PlayStation on.
- 4 As the car went by, someone waved to me from the back seat.
- 5 While Kasem had finished, he tidied up the room and left.
- 6 I was in the shower as the phone rang.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

79.3 Complete this talk about the life and work of a professor with *before* or *until*. (Sometimes, both are possible; just choose one.)

- 1 He continued to work at London University he retired in 2007.
- 2 he left his native country, he learned English by listening to the radio.
- 3 It wasn't long he was appointed Professor of Chemistry.
- 4 He married Martha he moved to England in 1960.
- 5 he came to England he worked in his father's grocery shop.
- 6 He applied for research positions he was appointed to a post at London University.
- 7 He was almost unknown outside his field he was awarded the Nobel Prize.
- 8 He would work in his lab for days at a time he had completed an experiment.

Adverbials 1

(continued)

Unit 80

Giving reasons: **as, because, etc.; for and with**

A

We can begin a clause with **as, because, seeing that, seeing as, or since** to give a reason for a particular situation:

- ☐ **As** it was getting late, I decided I should go home.
- ☐ We must be near the beach, **because** I can hear the waves.
- ☐ **Since** he was going to be away on his birthday, we celebrated before he left.
- ☐ We could go and visit Natalia, **seeing that** we have to drive past her house anyway.

Note that –

- ☆ it is common and acceptable for **because** to begin a sentence, as in:
 - ☐ **Because** everything looked different, I had no idea where to go.
- ☆ to give reasons in spoken English, we most often use **because**. **So** is also commonly used to express a similar meaning (see also Unit 81). Compare:
 - ☐ **Because** my mother's ill, I won't be able to come. ('because' introduces the reason) *and*
 - ☐ My mother's ill, **so** I won't be able to come. ('so' introduces the result.)
- ☆ when it means 'because', **since** is rather formal. It is uncommon in conversation, but is frequently used in this way in academic writing:
 - ☐ I had to go outside **because** I was feeling awful. ('since' is unlikely in an informal context)
 - ☐ The results of this analysis can be easily compared to future observations **since** satellite coverage will remain continuous. (more likely than 'because' in this formal context.)
- ☆ **seeing that** is used in informal English. Some people also use **seeing as** in informal speech:
 - ☐ Joel just had to apologise, **seeing that / as** he knew he'd made a mistake.

B

In formal or literary written English we can also introduce a reason in a clause beginning **for, in that, or, less commonly, inasmuch as**. **For** is a formal alternative to 'because'; **in that** and **inasmuch as** introduce clauses which clarify what has been said by adding detail:

- ☐ We must begin planning now, **for** the future may bring unexpected changes. (*not* For the future ..., we must ...)
- ☐ The film is unusual **in that** it features only four actors. (*or* In that ..., the film is ...)
- ☐ Clara and I have quite an easy life, **inasmuch as** neither of us has to work too hard but we earn quite a lot of money. (*or* Inasmuch as ..., Clara and I ...)

C

The prepositions **because of, due to, and owing to** can also be used before a noun or noun phrase to give a reason for something:

- ☐ We were delayed **because of** an accident.
- ☐ She was unable to run **owing to / due to** a leg injury. (= because of a leg injury.)
- ☐ We have less money to spend **owing to / due to** budget cuts. (= because of budget cuts.)

Note that we don't use **because** alone before a noun or noun phrase:

- ☐ We were delayed **because** there was an accident. (*not* ... because an accident.)

In current English we usually avoid **owing to** directly after a form of **be**:

- ☐ The company's success *is* **due to** the new director. (*not* ... is owing to ...)

However, **owing to** is used after **be + a degree adverb** such as **entirely, largely, mainly, partly**:

- ☐ The low election turnout *was* **partly due to / owing to** the bad weather.

We can often use either **it was due to ... that** or **it was owing to ... that**:

- ☐ *It was* **owing to** his encouragement *that* she applied for the job. (*or* *It was* **due to** ... *that*)

D

We can use **for** and **with** followed by a noun phrase to give a reason (compare B above):

- ☐ She was looking all the better **for** her stay in hospital. (= 'as a result of')
- ☐ **With** so many people ill, the meeting was cancelled. (= 'as a result of there being')

80.1 Complete the sentences by putting an item from (i) and one from (ii), in the correct order. **A**

(i)

- 1 ~~passengers were given a full refund~~
- 2 Andrea agreed to book tickets for us all
- 3 I'll buy you lunch
- 4 I've given up dairy products
- 5 we were recommended to buy the textbook second-hand
- 6 the guest lecturer was late
- 7 we get on so well
- 8 you should never walk under a ladder

(ii)

- a it's your birthday
- b it was her idea to go to the theatre
- c Dr Gomez spoke about his research instead
- d a new copy would be very expensive
- e I suggested we all go on holiday together
- f ~~the train was delayed for more than an hour~~
- g it's supposed to be unlucky
- h I'm trying to lose weight

1 + f Since the train was delayed for more than an hour, passengers were given a full refund.

- 2 as
- 3 Seeing as
- 4 Because
- 5 since
- 6 As
- 7 seeing that
- 8 because

80.2 Complete the sentences using **due to** or **owing to** and one of the phrases from the blue box. If both **due to** and **owing to** are possible, just choose one.

lack of interest	stress at work	heavy cloud
its central location	human error	

1. She claims her illness is entirely
2. The cancellation of the competition is
3. The popularity of the restaurant is largely
4. It's likely that the mistake was
5. We couldn't see last night's eclipse of the moon

Now complete these sentences using **because** or **because of** + a phrase from the blue box.

his age	his mobile was switched off	local opposition
the bright sunlight	there was a fly in it	

6. I had to drive in dark glasses
7. I couldn't speak to Jacob
8. The council had to withdraw its plan to close the swimming pool
9. My grandfather couldn't do a sponsored parachute jump
10. He sent the soup back

80.3 Using **for** or **with**, replace “because” or “because of” and rewrite these sentences.
Do NOT use contractions!

1. I got a job as a street sweeper because my money was running out.
2. I couldn't hear what Isabella was saying because of the noise.
3. Olivia went to stay with her aunt because her father was in hospital.
4. I felt a lot fitter because of all the exercise I was doing.
5. Because the train drivers are on strike tomorrow, I don't think I'll go to town after all.