



Grammar

**Subjects, Verbs, Objects
Adverbial Phrases**

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Subjects, Verbs, Objects and Adverbial Phrases

A follow-up to *Subjects, Verbs, Objects and Prepositional Phrases*, this two-page worksheet continues to teach students how to locate subjects, verbs, and objects within the “core” of sentences by first finding and omitting the adverbial phrases within those sentences. Identifying subjects, verbs, and objects is essential to achieving subject-verb agreement, noun-pronoun agreement, and overall syntactic accuracy. I have found that many of my students have received little or no instruction in adverbial phrases. This worksheet lends easily to the teaching of these grammatical structures and includes an answer key.

Name _____

Date _____

Subjects, Verbs, Objects and Adverbial Phrases

Adverbial phrases function as adverbs and answer the questions: when, where, why or how an action happens. Here are some adverbs that begin adverbial phrases:

if	when	because	before	after	although
as	that	since	unless	until	though
so	while	where	often	'til	rarely
instead	sometimes	whenever	with	without	perhaps

Examples of adverbial phrases:

If he calls she will bring home the soup.

I have to go to the store **because my refrigerator's empty**.

Until Sue hears her mom's voice she won't relax.

Pam goes to work **so that she can pay her rent**.

Since the limousine is so expensive I need to borrow \$40.

Put parentheses around the adverbial phrases in the following sentences:

- 1) I'll call Tom if I can find my cell phone.
- 2) As soon as I can I'll walk around the corner.
- 3) He won't go unless Samantha's going to be there.
- 4) Jim gets nervous whenever he has to sing in public.
- 5) He walked the streets at night after the rain ended.
- 6) I discovered while walking to work a beaver's dam.
- 7) For the experiment to work, you must follow the directions whenever you come across them exactly.
- 8) Whenever my dad takes me to lunch he always treats me.
- 9) I'll be ready as soon as I can find my bright red shoes.

Now, go back to your sentences and look at what's left after you omit all adverbial phrases. Whatever is left over is the "core" of the sentence. Look in this "core" to find the subject, the verb, and, if included, the object. Label them **S**, **V**, and **O**.



Subjects, Verbs, Objects and Adverbial Phrases— Answer Key

Adverbial phrases function as adverbs and answer the questions: when, where, why or how an action happens. Here are some adverbs that begin adverbial phrases:

if	when	because	before	after	although
as	that	since	unless	until	though
so	while	where	often	‘til	rarely
instead	sometimes	whenever	with	without	perhaps

Examples of adverbial phrases:

If he calls she will bring home the soup.

I have to go to the store **because my refrigerator’s empty**.

Until Sue hears her mom’s voice she won’t relax.

Pam goes to work **so that she can pay her rent**.

Since the limousine is so expensive I need to borrow \$40.

Put parentheses around the adverbial phrases in the following sentences:

- 1) I’ll call Tom (*if I can find my cell phone*). S: I, V: will call, O: Tom
- 2) (*As soon as I can*) I’ll walk around the corner. S: I, V: will walk
- 3) He won’t go (*unless Samantha’s going to be there*). S: He, V: won’t go
- 4) Jim gets nervous (*whenever he has to sing in public*). S: Jim, V: gets
- 5) He walked the streets at night (*after the rain ended*). S: He, V: walked, O: streets
- 6) I discovered (*while walking to work*) a beaver’s dam. S: I, V: discovered, O: dam
- 7) (*For the experiment to work*), you must follow the directions (whenever you come across them) exactly. S: you, V: must follow, O: directions
- 8) (*Whenever my dad takes me to lunch*) he always treats me. S: he, V: treats, O: me
- 9) I’ll be ready (*as soon as I can find my bright red shoes*). S: I, V: will be

Now, go back to your sentences and look at what’s left after you omit all adverbial phrases. Whatever is left over is the “core” of the sentence. Look in this “core” to find the subject, the verb, and, if included, the object. Label them **S**, **V**, and **O**.

Note: When I do this worksheet with my students, we place the S’s, V’s, and O’s directly above the subjects, verbs, and objects.

