

A closer look at long sentences

English language has three clauses: Adjective, Noun and Adverb Clauses, and these clauses have different types and functions. If you can detect them when reading long sentences, you can divide the sentences into chunks more easily; and this may help you understand the sentences better. What is more, identifying these clauses may help you write structurally more accurate sentences and express yourself better.

For better understanding of these worksheets, note the following:

- SVO = subject + verb + other elements
- Phrase = a group of words.
 - a. Verb Phrase – study biology
 - b. Adjective Phrase – very excited
 - c. Noun Phrase – the massive ship
 - d. Adverb Phrase – too slowly
 - e. Prepositional Phrase – during dinner
- Clause = a clause can be constructed with “that, which, after, since, so that, etc.” OR verb forms “Ving, V3, toV”. For example:

... **who** studies in the US.

... **that** she will see London at last.

... **when** the parcel was delivered to the wrong address.

☞ The verbs in these clauses have a tense; therefore, these clauses are called “finite”.

... the student **studying** in the US.

... **to see** London at last.

... **delivered** to the wrong address.

☞ The verbs in these clauses don't have a tense; therefore, these clauses are called “non-finite”.

Types of Clauses:

A. Adjective Clause

Celebrations such as weddings are often times **when families gather together**.

The girl **eating ice-cream** is my daughter. (non-finite)

B. Noun Clause

When families gather together is what sociology is interested in.

Eating / To eat ice-cream on a hot day is delightful. (non-finite)

C. Adverb Clause

When families gather together, there is either a wedding or a funeral.

Eating ice-cream, she nearly got choked. (non-finite)

Let's look into the following sentences:

1. He narrates that Mustafa Kemal, when commanding the 19th infantry Division, taking the initiative, moved his division to Conkbayırı without awaiting approval from higher headquarters, in anticipation of the main attack occurring in that area.

a. ... when commanding the 19th infantry Division ...

This part is an Adverb Clause of **Time** because there is the linker "when". This adverb clause is non-finite (reduced) because the verb "command" has no tense. If the subjects of the main clause and the adverb clause are the same you can make the adverb clause non-finite by omitting its subject and tense. In the sentence above, the subject is *Mustafa Kemal*.

when ~~he was~~ commanding the 19th infantry division
 =
 when commanding the 19th infantry division

An Adverb Clause of Time tells us the *time* of the action of the main sentence. Let's ask:

When did M. Kemal move his division to Conkbayırı? = When he was commanding the 19th infantry division.

✎ Remember that if the verb is active you change it into Ving; but if it is passive you change it into V3. For example:

- **Before he visited Australia, Marcus had never seen a kangaroo.**
Before visiting Australia, Marcus had never seen a kangaroo.
- **All visitors must wait at the gate until they are invited.**
 All visitors wait at the gate **until invited**.

✎ Note that if you are making a passive non-finite adverb clause of Time with the linkers "after, before, since" you need to use "being V3" instead of V3.

E.g.: *You will see a very good example of this in Sentence 3 of this worksheet.*

b. ... taking the initiative, moved his division to Conkbayırı without awaiting approval from higher headquarters...

In English we can create complex sentences using Ving (e.g. **taking**) like in the sentence above. And such sentences generally have a “reason-result” or “time” relation. See the following examples for better understanding:

- i. Jane realised her mistake **and** she apologised. → **Realising** her mistake, Jane apologised.
- ii. The tiger was made unconscious with an injection, **and** it was put in a cage to be sent to the London Zoo. → The tiger, **being made unconscious with an injection**, was put in a cage to be sent to the London Zoo. (Notice the passive here.)

In the chunk above, there are two verbs that have a “time” relation. In other words, the sentence tells us:

- First ⇒ Mustafa Kemal took the initiative ...
- Then ⇒ Mustafa Kemal moved his division to Conkbayırı ...

c. ... in anticipation of the main attack occurring in that area.

“in anticipation of” is a prepositional phrase and its definition is as follows:

do something in anticipation of something: to do something because you expect something to happen

E.g. : The workers have cancelled their strike in anticipation of a pay offer.

In the sentence above, therefore, we understand that M. Kemal was expecting a main attack to occur and thus he moved his division to Conkbayırı.

It is a good idea to learn chunks like this when learning a language. If you can recognize such phrases you will of course have a better understanding of the texts you are reading and you can write more accurately. Do you know other prepositional phrases? Let's remind ourselves of some of them. (*Mind you, there are tons of such prepositional phrases!*)

Can you figure out the meanings of the prepositional phrases (in bold) from the examples?

Students should discuss ideas, **as opposed to** just copying from books.

The cars were produced quickly, **at the expense of** safety.

It is **by no means** certain that you'll get your money back.

Tours were cancelled **for lack of** bookings.

These results are **in accord with** earlier research.

The worksheets are designed to be used **in conjunction with** the new course books.

I've offered to paint the kitchen **in exchange for** a week's accommodation.

He lived **in obedience to** the church's teachings.

Her feet are small **in proportion to** her height.

Students remained strong **in the face of** opposition from the government.

Employers are not allowed to discriminate **on the basis of** race or sex.

Mountain gorillas are **on the threshold of** extinction.

We bought the cottage **with a view to** settling down there after retirement.

All students must have access to quality education **without regard to** wealth or class.

☺ Of course, you can consult a bilingual dictionary to work out the meanings if you have difficulty.

2. During a speech in the city of Konya on the anniversary of the victory in the Inonu Campaign, Mustafa Kemal described his guiding principle in any battlefield, be it military or political, in these words, 'Victory is won by the man who says victory is mine, success belongs to him who starts by saying I will be successful and can then say I have succeeded'.

... be it military or political ... = ... whether it is military or political ...

Another example:

"The person, be it gentleman or lady, who has not pleasure in a good novel, must be intolerably stupid." Jane Austen

Note that "be it" may be used in other ways. Therefore, it'd be wise of you to try to deduce the meaning from the sentence. Let's try one. Can you understand what the following sentence mean?

"Be it ever so humble, there is no place like home."

It means "Though home may not be elegant or rich, it is still home."

3. In 1919, after being discharged from the Ottoman Army due to his call for a sovereign Turkish State, Mustafa Kemal developed a war strategy that judiciously balanced political and military spheres as warranted by changing circumstances.
- a. ... after being discharged from the Ottoman Army due to his call for a sovereign Turkish State ...

Remember the explanations about the Sentence 1-a? In that sentence there was a non-finite Adverb Clause of Time. Here, we see another example of such clauses but this one has a passive verb!

↗ Note that if you are making a passive non-finite adverb clause of Time with the linkers "after, before, since" you need to use "being V3".

E.g.: after ~~she was~~ invited = after being invited

With this information in mind, now turn to the meaning of the clause above:

Who was discharged from the Ottoman Army? = Mustafa Kemal.

But, how do we know this? We know this because we know that in a non-finite adverb clause when you omit the subject it must be the **same** subject in the main clause. And here the main clause is “**Mustafa Kemal** developed a war strategy that judiciously balanced political and military spheres as warranted by changing circumstances”.

So, Mustafa Kemal, first called for a sovereign Turkish state and because of this he was discharged from the Ottoman Army. And after he was discharged from the army, he developed a war strategy.

- b. ... Mustafa Kemal developed a war strategy that judiciously balanced political and military spheres as warranted by changing circumstances.

Here we see another non-finite Adverb Clause. But this time it is an **Adverb Clause of Manner**. See the example:

“**As required by law**, we cannot serve alcoholic drinks to children under 18.” This sentence means that the law does not let us serve alcoholic drinks to children under 18 and in accordance with the law, we do not do it.

<u>as</u>	<u>warranted**</u>	<u>by changing circumstances</u>
Adverb Clause Linker of Manner*	V3 form of “ warrant ”	by + doer (remember passive constructions?!)

So, from the chunk above we understand that “changing circumstances required Mustafa Kemal to develop a war strategy and he did accordingly”.

* An Adverb Clause of Manner tells us “How” or “In what way” the main action is done.

E.g.: Rita sings beautifully.

How does Rita sing? = She sings **beautifully**.

** **warrant** [transitive]

1 to need or deserve:

This tiny crowd does not warrant such a large police presence.

warrant attention/consideration etc

Another area that warrants attention is that of funding for universities.

2 to promise that something is true

warrant that

The Author hereby warrants that the Publisher is the owner of the copyright.

from Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English