

Clarification:

Clauses “linked” by subordinating conjunctions (L2.3) are actually embedded modifier clauses

「附屬連接詞」連接的子句 (課堂 2.3) 其實是外層子句中被包著的修飾語子句

1. The sentences below all have **embedded clause modifiers linked by subordinating conjunctions (in bold)**. Determine whether each of the embedded clauses is modifying the entire outer clause or just a phrase within the outer clause.

(Note: The clause boundaries have been marked for your reference.)

e.g. 1. He did it **because it was easy**.
[He did it [**because it was easy**.]]

modifying the entire outer clause: modifying a phrase within the outer clause:

e.g. 2. Doing this just **because it was easy** is not enough.
[Doing it just [**because it was easy**] is not enough.]

modifying the entire outer clause: modifying a phrase within the outer clause:

- a) **When a soldier who was stationed in that army base told me about his experience**, I knew that the claims in the book are true.

[[**When a soldier who was stationed in that army base told me about his experience**,] I knew [that the claims in the book are true.]]

modifying the entire outer clause: modifying a phrase within the outer clause:

([**when...**] is modifying the entire outer clause [I knew that the claims in the book are true]. It has been topicalized to the front of the outer clause.)

- b) She thought, as she sat there watching her daughter, that her life was perfect.

[She thought, [**as she sat there watching her daughter**,] [that her life was perfect.]]

modifying the entire outer clause: modifying a phrase within the outer clause:

([**as...**] is modifying the entire outer clause [She thought that her life was perfect]. It was moved to the “middle” of the outer clause, after the finite verb “thought”.)

- c) Watching this movie **when you are sad** is not a good idea.

[Watching this movie [**when you are sad**] is not a good idea.]

modifying the entire outer clause: modifying a phrase within the outer clause:

([**when...**] is an adverb inside the gerund subject [watching this movie when you are sad]. It only modifies “watching this movie”, not the entire clause “Watching this movie is not a good idea”)

- d) You should just forget about it **because it is no longer relevant**.

[You should just forget about it [**because it is no longer relevant**.]]

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2. To each of the sentences below, add an embedded clause linked by a subordinating conjunction that can modify the entire outer clause as an **independent adverb modifier**. Then, move the independent adverb to another structurally viable position within the outer clause.

e.g. *I could not find it _____ when I tried to look for it _____.*

After a possible movement of the independent adverb clause:

When I tried to look for it, I could not find it.
(topicalized position)

- a) My mother started her own business (e.g.) even though she had no money and no help at the beginning.

After a possible movement of the independent adverb clause:

Even though my mother had no money and no help at the beginning, she started her own business.

(Note: Since both clauses have the same subject “my mother” in this sample answer, the subject in [even though she...] in the original position is written as the pronoun “she” to avoid repetition. It would be better to switch these subjects around and put “my mother” FIRST, if the embedded modifier clause is topicalized. Otherwise, the pronoun “she” would have no referent in the topicalized embedded clause.)

- b) He thought that he was going to win when the judge smiled at him.

(Hint: There is another “that”-embedded clause here. An embedded clause modifier linked by a subordinating conjunction at the end here can be modifying ONLY the “that”-embedded clause “he was going to win” or the entire outer clause “**He thought that he was going to win**”. For the purposes of this exercise, please make sure you write an embedded modifier clause that **modifies the entire outer clause “He thought that he was going to win”.**)

*(Here, [**when the judge smiled at him**] is modifying the entire outer clause [He thought that he was going to win]. The action that is modified by [when...] is the finite verb of the outermost clause, “**thought**”, not the finite verb of the “that”-clause, “was going to win”. As in, “when the judge smiled at him,” he did the action “he **THOUGHT** he was going to win”.)*

After a possible movement of the independent adverb clause:

He thought, when the judge smiled at him, that he was going to win.

*([**when...**] has been moved to the position after the finite verb of the outer clause, “thought”)*

- c) I would recommend this movie if you like light-hearted comedies.

After a possible movement of the independent adverb clause:

e.g. If you like light-hearted comedies, I would recommend this movie. (topicalized position)

e.g. I would, if you like light-hearted comedies, recommend this movie.

(less natural position that emphasizes the action of “recommend this movie” and its “condition”, i.e. “if you like light-hearted comedies”, in a way that is more dramatic.)

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3. Add an embedded clause linked by a subordinating conjunction to modify each of the following verb-derived phrases within the outer clause.

e.g. To have an ice-cold beer _____ is the most refreshing thing ever!

e.g. To have an ice-cold beer when it is 35°C outside is the most refreshing thing ever!

a) Persevering (e.g.) **when you feel like giving up** is not an easy thing to do.

([**when...**] only modifies “persevering” and is inside the gerund subject phrase “**persevering when you feel like giving up**”.)

b) I love that picture of Kiki lying in the sun with her radio **as the grass gently sways in the wind**.

([**as...**] only modifies the participle phrase “lying in the sun with her radio”. The whole participle phrase “**lying in the sun with her radio as the grass gently sways in the wind**” is a modifier to the noun “Kiki”. This long noun phrase with a modifier, “Kiki....around her”, forms a prepositional phrase modifier with “of”.)

([**as...**] is obviously not modifying the outer clause [I love that picture...]. The action being modified by [**as the grass gently sways in the wind**] is **NOT [I love that picture]** but rather “lying in the sun...”)

c) Criticized by his coach **after he missed an easy shot**, the player could not hold back his tears.

([**after...**] only modifies the participle phrase “criticized by his coach” and is inside the participle phrase “**criticized by his coach after he missed an easy shot**”. It does not modify the whole outer clause [the player could not hold back his tears]. “**criticized by his coach after he missed an easy shot**” is in an adjective modifier to the subject “the player”.)

d) It is not a shameful thing to ask for help if you need it.

([**if...**] only modifies the infinitive phrase “to ask for help” and is inside the phrase “**to ask for help if you need it**”. It is not modifying [It is not a shameful thing...]. The whole infinitive phrase “**to ask for help if you need it**” is modifying [It is not a shameful thing...].