The Adverb Clause

Recognize an adverb clause when you see one.

An adverb clause will meet three requirements:

- First, it will contain a **subject** and **verb**.
- You will also find a **subordinate conjunction** that keeps the clause from expressing a complete thought.
- Finally, you will notice that the clause answers one of these four **adverb** questions: How? When? Where? or Why?

Read these examples:

Tommy scrubbed the bathroom tile until his arms ached.

*How* did Tommy scrub? **Until his arms ached**, an adverb clause.

Josephine's three cats bolted from the driveway once they saw her car turn the corner.

*When* did the cats bolt? **Once they saw her car turn the corner**, an adverb clause.

The missing eyeglasses are in the refrigerator, where Damien absentmindedly set them down while eating his roommate's leftover fried rice.

*Where* are the missing eyeglasses? **Where Damien absentmindedly set them down**, an adverb clause.

After her appointment at the orthodontist, Danielle cooked eggs for dinner because she could easily chew an omelet.

*Why* did Danielle cook eggs? **Because she could easily chew an omelet**, an adverb clause.