The Adverb Clause

Recognize an adverb clause when you find one.

An adverb clause will meet these three requirements:

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

Read these examples:

Brittany can pass Professor Gregory’s microbiology class if she studies seven hours a day.

*How* can Brittany pass microbiology? *If she studies seven hours a day*, an adverb clause.

Josephine’s three cats bolted from the driveway once they heard her car racing around the corner.

*When* did the cats bolt? *Once they heard her car racing around the corner*, an adverb clause.

When Nick and Victoria go camping, their hotel room is wherever they pitch their tent!

*Where* is Nick and Victoria’s hotel room? *Wherever they pitch their tent*, 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.