

GLOBAL  
EDITION



# The Little, Brown Handbook

FOURTEENTH EDITION

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Fourteenth Edition  
Global Edition

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*Example:*

My father enjoyed mean pranks. For instance, he hid the neighbor's cat.

My father enjoyed mean pranks such as hiding the neighbor's cat.

1. Air pollution is a health problem. It affects millions of Americans.
2. The air has been polluted mainly by industries and automobiles. It contains toxic chemicals.
3. Environmentalists pressure politicians. They think politicians should pass stricter laws.
4. Many politicians waver. They are not necessarily against environmentalism.
5. The problems are too complex. They cannot be solved easily.

### 12.4.3 Using absolute phrases

**Absolute phrases** consist of a noun or pronoun and a participle, plus any modifiers:

┌──────── absolute phrase ─────────┐

Many ethnic groups, their own place established, are making way for new arrivals.

┌──────── absolute phrase ─────────┐

Their native lands left behind, immigrants face many obstacles.

These phrases are called *absolute* (from a Latin word meaning “free”) because they have no specific grammatical connection to a noun, verb, or any other word in the rest of the sentence. Instead, they modify the entire rest of the sentence, adding information.

Notice that absolute phrases, unlike participial phrases, always contain a subject. Compare the following sentences:

┌──────── participial phrase ─────────┐

For many immigrants learning English, the language introduces American culture.

┌──────── absolute phrase ─────────┐

The immigrants having learned English, their opportunities widen.

### Exercise 12.13 Sentence combining: Absolute phrases

To practice writing sentences with absolute phrases, combine each pair of sentences below into one sentence that contains an absolute phrase. You will have to add, delete, change, and rearrange words.

*Example:*

The flower's petals wilted. It looked pathetic.

Its petals wilted, the flower looked pathetic.

1. Geraldine Ferraro's face beamed. She enjoyed the crowd's cheers after her nomination for Vice President.
2. A vacancy had occurred. Sandra Day O'Connor was appointed the first female Supreme Court justice.
3. The vote was complete. Madeleine Albright was confirmed as the first female secretary of state.
4. Her appointment was confirmed. Condoleezza Rice became the first female national security adviser.
5. The election was over. Nancy Pelosi became the first female speaker of the House of Representatives.

#### 12.4.4 Using subordinate clauses

A **clause** is any group of words that contains both a subject and a predicate. There are two kinds of clauses:

- A **main or independent clause** makes a complete statement and can stand alone as a sentence:

\_\_\_\_\_main clause \_\_\_\_\_main clause  
The school teaches parents. It is unusual.

- A **subordinate or dependent clause** is just like a main clause except that it begins with a subordinating word:

\_\_\_\_\_subordinate clause \_\_\_\_\_main clause  
Because the school teaches parents, it is unusual.

The subordinating word reduces the clause to a single part of speech—an adjective, an adverb, or a noun—that supports the idea in the main clause. Because a subordinate clause only modifies or names something, it cannot stand alone as a sentence. (The word *subordinate* means “secondary” or “controlled by another.”)

The following examples show the differences between main and subordinate clauses:

\_\_\_\_\_main clause \_\_\_\_\_main clause  
Some parents avoid their children's schools. They often cannot read.

\_\_\_\_\_main clause  
Often parents who cannot read avoid their children's schools.  
└subordinate clause┐

#### Subordinating conjunctions and relative pronouns

Two kinds of subordinating words introduce subordinate clauses. The first is **subordinating conjunctions**, which are like prepositions in that they never change form. In the following box they are arranged by the relationships they signal. (Some fit into more than one group.)

### Common subordinating conjunctions

Cause or effect	Condition	Comparison or contrast	Space or time
as	even if	as	after
because	if	as if	as long as
in order that	if only	as though	before
since	provided	rather than	now that
so that	since	than	once
	unless	whereas	since
<b>Concession</b>	when	whether	till
although	whenever	while	until
as if	whether		when
even if		<b>Purpose</b>	whenever
even though		in order that	where
though		so that	wherever
		that	while

### Culture and language

Learning the meanings of subordinating conjunctions can help you to express your ideas clearly. Note that each one conveys its meaning on its own. It does not need help from another function word, such as the coordinating conjunction *and*, *but*, *for*, or *so*.

<b>Faulty</b>	Even though the parents cannot read, but their children may read well. [ <i>Even though</i> and <i>but</i> have the same meaning, so both are not needed.]
<b>Revised</b>	<u>Even though</u> the parents cannot read, their children may read well.

The second kind of subordinating word is **relative pronouns**. They usually act as subjects or objects in their own clauses, and two of them (*who* and *whoever*) change form accordingly.

### Relative pronouns


which	what	who (whose, whom)
that	whatever	whoever (whomever)


### Subordinate clauses

Subordinate clauses function as adjectives, adverbs, or nouns.

### Adjective clauses

**Adjective clauses** modify nouns and pronouns. They usually begin with the relative pronoun *who*, *whom*, *whose*, *which*, or *that*, although a few adjective clauses begin with *when* or *where* (standing for *in which*, *on which*, or *at which*). The pronoun is the subject or object of the clause it begins. The clause ordinarily falls immediately after the noun or pronoun it modifies:

Parents  who cannot read often have bad memories of school.


Schools  that involve parents are more successful with children.

One school, , which is open year-round, helps parents learn to read.


The school is in a city  where the illiteracy rate is high.

### Adverb clauses

Like adverbs, **adverb clauses** modify verbs, adjectives, other adverbs, and whole groups of words. They usually tell how, why, when, where, under what conditions, or with what result. They always begin with subordinating conjunctions.

The school began teaching parents  when adult illiteracy gained national attention.

At first the program was not as successful as  its founders had hoped.

 Because it was directed at people who could not read, advertising had to be inventive.

### Noun clauses

**Noun clauses** function as subjects, objects, and complements in sentences. They begin with *that*, *what*, *whatever*, *who*, *whom*, *whoever*, *whomever*, *when*, *where*, *whether*, *why*, or *how*. Unlike adjective and adverb clauses, noun clauses *replace* a word (a noun) within a clause; therefore, they can be difficult to identify.

 **sentence subject**  
Whether the program would succeed depended on door-to-door advertising.

Teachers explained in person  how the program would work.

A few parents were anxious about  what their children would think.

### Elliptical clauses

A subordinate clause that is grammatically incomplete but clear in meaning is an **elliptical clause** (*ellipsis* means “omission”). The

meaning of the clause is clear because the missing element can be supplied from the context. Most often the elements omitted are the pronouns *that*, *which*, and *whom* or the predicate from the second part of a comparison.

Skepticism and fear were among the feelings [that] the parents voiced.  
The parents knew their children could read better than they [could read].

### Exercise 12.14 Identifying subordinate clauses

Identify the subordinate clauses in the following sentences. Then indicate whether each is used as an adjective, an adverb, or a noun. If the clause is a noun, indicate what function it performs in the sentence.

*Example:*

noun

The article explained how one could build an underground house.  
[Object of *explained*.]

1. Scientists who want to catch the slightest signals from space use extremely sensitive receivers.
2. Even though they have had to fight for funding, these scientists have persisted in their research.
3. The research is called SETI, which stands for Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence.
4. The theory is that intelligent beings in space are trying to get in touch with us.
5. Scientists do not yet know what frequency these beings would use to send signals.

### Exercise 12.15 Sentence combining: Subordinate clauses

To practice writing sentences with subordinate clauses, combine each pair of main clauses into one sentence. Use either subordinating conjunctions or relative pronouns as appropriate, referring to the lists in the “Common subordinating clauses” and “Relative pronouns” boxes if necessary. You will have to add, delete, and rearrange words. Each item has more than one possible answer.

*Example:*

She did not have her tire irons with her. She could not change her bicycle tire.

Because she did not have her tire irons with her, she could not change her bicycle tire.

1. Moviegoers expect something. Movie sequels should be as exciting as the original films.
2. A few sequels are good films. Most sequels are poor imitations of the originals.
3. A sequel to a blockbuster film arrives in the theater. Crowds quickly line up to see it.

4. Viewers pay to see the same villains and heroes. They remember these characters fondly.
5. Afterward, viewers often grumble about filmmakers. The filmmakers rehash tired plots and characters.

### 12.4.5 Using appositives

An **appositive** is usually a noun that renames another noun nearby, most often the noun just before the appositive. (The word derives from Latin meaning “placed near to” or “applied to.”) An **appositive phrase** includes modifiers as well.

Bizen ware, a dark stoneware, has been produced in Japan since the fourteenth century.

The name Bizen comes from the location of the kilns used to fire the pottery.

All appositives can replace the words they refer to: A dark stoneware has been produced in Japan.

Appositives are often introduced by words and phrases such as *or, that is, such as, for example, and in other words*:

Bizen ware is used in the Japanese tea ceremony, that is, the Zen Buddhist observance that links meditation and art.

Appositives are economical alternatives to adjective clauses containing a form of *be*:

Bizen ware, [which is] a dark stoneware, has been produced in Japan since the fourteenth century.

Although most appositives are nouns that rename other nouns, they may also be and rename other parts of speech, such as the verb *thrown* in the sentence below:

The pottery is thrown, or formed on a potter’s wheel.

gram  
12.4

### Exercise 12.16 Sentence combining: Appositives

To practice writing sentences with appositives, combine each pair of sentences into one sentence that contains an appositive. You will have to delete and rearrange words. Some items have more than one possible answer.

*Example:*

The largest land animal is the elephant. The elephant is also one of the most intelligent animals.

The largest land animal, the elephant, is also one of the most intelligent animals.

1. Some people showed exceptional abilities when they were very young. They were child prodigies.