

Chapter 17

Adverbial Clauses



The Williams Sisters

Wimbledon, tennis capital of the world, may never see anything like it again: the Williams sisters, Venus and Serena, fighting it out in Centre Court for the women's singles championship in July 2008. **When they had met here before in 2002 and 2003**, Serena beat her older sister both times, but not that day **as Venus showed once again** that Wimbledon was her favorite court. Venus returned to defend her championship, glowing with a confidence that she might not have elsewhere. **When she plays on grass**, at 6'1" tall, she covers a lot of air and space at the net. **After she won**, there were none of Venus' usual leaps in the air **because she had beaten her sister**. But the joy was there **since it was clearly Venus' day**.

Use an adverb clause to show time relationships.

when = at that time

They had met here before in 2002 and 2003
when Serena beat her older sister both times.

*When did Serena beat
her older sister?*

In 2002 and 2003.

Use an adverb clause to show time relationships.

as = during that time

When they had met here before in 2002 and 2003, Serena beat her older sister both times, but not today **as Venus showed once again** that Wimbledon was her favorite court.

When?

Today, during the tennis match.

Use an adverb clause to show time relationships.

after = to introduce the action that happened first

1

2

After she won, there were none of Venus' usual leaps in the air.

Practice 1 - Look at the time relationships in each pair of sentences. Combine the sentences into one using the words in parentheses.

1. The Williams sisters had played each other many times before. They met in the finals at Wimbledon in 2008. (*when*)
2. Venus started to feel more confident. She started to play better. (*as*)
3. Serena started to get upset. She started to lose. (*when*)
4. Venus won. She was excited but kind to her sister. (*after*)
5. They played the final singles match in the morning. The Williams sisters won the doubles final in the afternoon. (*after*)

Use an adverb clause to show cause and effect.

because
since = give a reason, or express
a known cause

Because she is over 6'1", she can cover a lot of ground very quickly.

After she won, there were none of Venus usual leaps in the air **since** she had beaten her sister.

Practice 2 - Look at the cause and effect relationships in each pair of sentences. Then combine them into one sentence using either *because* or *since*.

1. Two sisters were competing against each other for the singles championship. The attention of the sports world was focused on Wimbledon in July 2008.

2. Serena beat Venus in 2002 and 2003. Venus fought even harder in 2008.

3. Venus was more subdued in victory than usual. Venus had beaten her sister.

4. Still, Venus was joyful. It had clearly been Venus' day all the way.

Venus and Serena Williams grew up in Compton, California in a poor neighborhood. **Even though** the tennis courts in the parks near their home were in shabby condition, their father took them out to practice every day. **If** the tennis courts had any nets at all, they were made of steel – like a chain-link fence. **Even though** he was still teaching himself about tennis from books and videos, Mr. Williams began hitting balls to his daughters on the city tennis courts. **Whether or not** it seemed possible to anyone else, Richard Williams taught his girls that they would become world champions. And **even if** his attitude struck some people as too cocky, it turned out that he was right! Both of his daughters are world-class tennis champions today.

Use *even though* when the results are unexpected.

because = expected results

Because the tennis courts in the parks were in shabby condition, most people didn't play on them.

even though = unexpected results

Even though the tennis courts in the parks near their home were in shabby condition, their father Richard took them out to practice every day.

Use *even though* when the results are unexpected.

Were the courts in good condition? NO

Is it normal to play on courts that have holes in the ground or don't have nets? NO

Did the Williams sister practice on the courts anyway? YES
Even though the tennis courts in the parks near their home were in shabby condition, their father

Richard took them out to practice every day even
Unexpected result, so use even though.
before they started grammar school.

Practice 3

Complete the sentences with *even though* or *because*. One sentence has two answers.

1. Even though the family grew up poor, they still dreamed of becoming world famous tennis players.

Because

2. Even though he didn't know much about the sport, their father started reading books about tennis.

3. He made the girls practice every day even though they were very young.

4. Mr. Williams' confidence in his daughters was justified because they both became world champions.

5. Even though many people did not believe it could happen, today the Williams sisters are world champions!¹²

Use adverb clauses to express conditions.

Whether or not = neither of two conditions matters

Whether or not it seemed possible to anyone else, Richard Williams taught his girls that they would become world champions.

*Some people thought it was possible.
Neither opinion mattered to Richard and
Some people thought it was not possible.
his daughters.*

Use adverb clauses to express conditions.

even if = a particular condition doesn't matter

And **even if** his attitude struck some people as too cocky, it turned out that he was right!

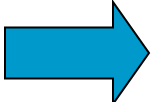
Some people thought his attitude was too cocky, but it didn't matter because he was right in the end.

Practice 4

Which sentence has the same meaning (a. or b.)?

1. Whether or not they had to play against each other, both girls were going to try their hardest to win at Wimbledon.

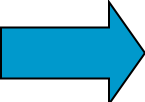
a. They would only try hard if they played against each other.

 b. They would try hard in every game.

Practice 4

Which sentence has the same meaning (a. or b.)?

2. Even if the tennis courts are in bad shape,
we'll play our match.

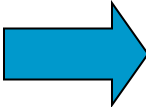
 a. We don't care if the courts are bad. We'll play
anyway.

b. We're not going to play if the courts are bad.

Practice 4

Which sentence has the same meaning (a. or b.)?

3. Whether or not it rains, the tennis at Wimbledon goes on.

 a. If it rains, they'll play, and if it doesn't rain, they'll play.

b. If it doesn't rain, they'll play.

CREDITS

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