

## **17. Adverbials**

### **Summary**

An {adverbial} is defined as a non-restrictive qualifier of a {verb}. It does not include a gerund, which qualifies an {agent}, or {circumstance} which is a restrictive qualifier of an {object} or {target}.

An a non-restrictive qualifier, an {adverbial} represents an additional sentence to the {verb} that it qualifies. When combined in a single grammatical structure, we may speak of a main clause which contains the qualified {verb}, and an adverbial clause which qualifies it.

An adverbial clause may also be expressed as a distinct sentence whose subject is the qualified {verb} in {noun} form, and whose predicate is the {adverbial}. This is called an adverbial sentence.

Eleven different categories of {adverbial} are analysed in greater detail: those of space, time, causation, condition, concession, comparison, observation, supposition, generality, benefit, and quantity. In each case, the discourse and functional structure is examined on the basis of the relevant adverbial sentence. It is shown that each category of {adverbial} can be analysed in terms of an existing functional class. Two express an {instrument} or {causer} to another function:

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| causation:  | {instrument} or {causer}   |
| concession: | {causer – agent/instrument – not} or<br>{causer – not – agent/instrument – not}. |

Nine {adverbial} express functions:

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| space:       | {locative – location} or {constitute – attribute} |
| time:        | {time}  |
| condition:   | {depend}  |
| comparison:  | {compare}   |
| observation: | {perceive}, {communicate}, or {opinion}           |
| supposition: | {suppose} or {propose}                            |
| generality:  | {constitute}                                      |
| benefit      | {benefit}   |
| quantity     | {attribute}.                                      |

{adverbial} of space, time, causation, observation, generality, benefit, quantity and certain {adverbial} of condition, concession, and comparison, provide factual information on the {verb} which they qualify and their adverbial sentences are accordingly selection or circumstance. Most {adverbial} of condition, some of concession and comparison, and all {adverbial} of supposition, have an adverbial sentence which is a hypothesis.

### **Terms Defined or Introduced**

Adverbial, adverbial sentence, main clause, adverbial clause.

### **Adverbials in Grammar**

An adverbial is conventionally described as a qualifier of a verb or an adjective; hence its name adverb “attached to a verb”. Grammarians tend to use the term adverbial to refer both a single-word adverb and an expression with the same purpose:

“She played beautifully”; “She played with great beauty”.

We can say that “beautifully” is an adverb because the sentence means “Her playing was beautiful”, which shows that it is the verb “play” which is qualified. Similarly, the adjective “long” is qualified in:

“The concert was extremely long”; “The concert was of extreme length”.

However, we have noted instances of words with the “-ly” structure of an English adverbial for which this simple pattern is less clear:

“She played stylishly” means “She was very stylish in playing”

while the earlier example is not equivalent to “She was very beautiful in playing”. “Stylish” describes the manner in which the {agent} of the sentences performs the action, whereas “beautiful” describes the action itself. “Stylish” is an example of the function {style} in Chapter 15. (The Style Sentence).

The term “adverbial” is also conventionally used for the expression “full of happiness” in:

“Full of happiness, she played with great style.”

This does not mean “She played happily” and so does not refer to the action of the sentence, but to the state or condition of the {agent} in performing it. As we saw in Chapter 5. (Gerund), this construction is a gerund, that is two sentences which occur simultaneously: “She was full of happiness; she played with great style”. Similarly:

“She excitedly opened the parcel.”

means “She was excited at the opening of the parcel”. It again refers to the state and condition of the {agent}, and is an effect (Chapter 15, The Effect Sentence).

Another gerund which is often categorised as an adverbial is an expression of purpose on the part of the {agent} of an action:

“She played the piece to impress the audience.”

“She opened the parcel to find what it contained.”

“to impress the audience” and “to find what it contained” are qualifications of “she” in these sentences, not of “played” or “opened”.

It is therefore not particularly useful to employ “adverbial” to refer to the manner which an {agent} conducts an action, or to his/her state or condition in so doing. Nor is it a useful term for the attribute of an {object}, although again a word ending “-ly” may be used in English:

“He wrote the letter clearly” can mean

“He wrote the letter so that it was clear” or “His writing of the letter was clear”.

“Adverbial” should on our definition refer to “clearly” in the second of these meanings, not the first.

We accordingly propose to limit the term {adverbial} to mean a qualification of a {verb}, not of a {noun} such as {agent}, {instrument}, {object}, or {recipient}. This usage has the advantage that it covers the functions of an {adverbial} in qualifying both a verb and an adjective, since in Chapter 16. (The Verb Component) our concept of {verb} includes both a dynamic verb and a stative adjective. The terminology may be tested on some sample sentences used in Chapter 15.:

“He cleaned the drain thoroughly.”

“His cleaning of the drain was thorough.”

“I firmly promise to pay.”

“My promise to pay is firm.”

“The houses were roofed in bad weather.”

“The roofing was done in bad weather.”

“We met on Tuesday.”

“Our meeting was on Tuesday.”

“We met on Tuesday, as announced.”

“Our meeting had been announced.”

“We were greatly surprised at the result.”

“Our surprise at the result was great.”

“She urgently needed shelter.”

“Her need for shelter was urgent.”

In the first of these pair of sentences, the {verb} is qualified by an {adverbial}. The {subject} of the second sentence is that same {verb} in the form of a verbal noun, and the {adverbial} is the predicate. The second sentence, which is functionally equivalent to the first, can be termed an *adverbial sentence*.

In all the above examples, the main sentences are selection sentences, and the {adverbial} provides additional information. This is not so if the main sentences are circumstance sentences. Let us compare the following two groups of examples, the first being selection and the second circumstance:

|   |   |
|---|---|
| “We went to the meeting at 10.00.”        | “Our meeting was at 10.00.”             |
| “We saw the play at the Old Vic theatre.” | “The play was at the Old Vic.”          |
| “They played the croquet game last week.” | “The croquet game was last week.”       |
| “I had the lunch with my aunt.”           | “The lunch was with my aunt.”           |
| “We went to a meeting at 10.00.”          | “We saw a play at the Old Vic theatre.” |
| “They played a croquet game last week.”   | “I had lunch with my aunt.”             |

In the first group, the qualifications “at 10.00”, “at the Old Vic”, “last week”, and “with my aunt” provide additional information. They are non-restrictive qualifiers, and the adverbial sentences “Our meeting was at 10.00”; “The play was at the Old Vic”; etc apply.

In the second group, the same qualifications do not provide additional information, but give an identity to the rest of the comment “a meeting”, “a play”, “a croquet game” and “lunch”. They are restrictive qualifiers, and are the {circumstance} of the sentence in the terminology of Chapter 13. We find that for this group, the adverbial sentences “Our meeting was at 10.00”; “The play was at the Old Vic”; do not apply. The most that could be expressed is the same sentences in existential form:

“There was at meeting we attended at 10.00.”  
 “There was a play which we saw at the Old Vic.”  
 “There was a croquet game we played last week.”  
 “There was a lunch I had with my aunt.”

We conclude that our definition of {adverbial} only applies to a non-restrictive qualifier of a {verb}. If the same expression is a restrictive qualifier, it is a {circumstance}.

Adverbial sentences may occur with the {subject} not as a verbal noun but as a clause (underlined), which in English is anticipated by a dummy “it”. These expressions are sometimes called “impersonal” or “subjectless”:

Greek: “Οι φίλοι μας φαίνεται ότι προτιμούν την ταβέρνα.”  
 “It seems that our friends prefer the taverna.”  
 [The friends-our it-seems that they-prefer the taverna.]<sup>1</sup>

Turkish: “Geleceği şüphesiz.” “It is indubitable that he will come.”  
 [Coming-future-his doubtless]<sup>2</sup>

By expressing the {verb} of the “that” clause as a verbal noun, as already happens in the Turkish sentence, we see that they conform to the pattern of adverbial sentences discussed above, with the verbal noun as {subject}. Alternatively, the {verb} of the adverbial sentence can be an {adverbial} to the “that” sentence:

“Apparently, our friends prefer the taverna.”  
 “The preference of our friends for the taverna is apparent.”  
 “He will indubitably come.” “His coming is indubitable.”

While the qualification of a {noun} is covered by one or other of the functions described in Chapter 15., the qualification of a {verb} is not covered either there, or in the discourse structure that we have

<sup>1</sup> Holton et al, 200.

<sup>2</sup> Lewis, 212.

given in Chapters 13. and 14., or in the component structure of Chapters 16. and 17. We therefore need to consider the matter further.

### Adverbials in Discourse

In illustrate how an adverbial appears in a discourse, we refer again to the above examples:

|  |   |
|--|---|
| “He cleaned the drain thoroughly.”         | “His cleaning of the drain was thorough.”     |
| “I firmly promise to pay.”                 | “My promise to pay is firm.”                  |
| “The houses were roofed in bad weather.”   | “The roofing was done in bad weather.”        |
| “We met on Tuesday, as announced.”         | “Our meeting had been announced.”             |
| “We were greatly surprised at the result.” | “Our surprise at the result was great.”       |
| “She urgently needed shelter.”             | “Her need for shelter was urgent.”            |
| “She wrote the thesis in Cambridge.”       | “The thesis-writing took place in Cambridge.” |

As we have observed, every sentence fulfils two purposes or roles, which can be simply described as follows:

- (i) It supplies (or questions, or hypothesises) a new piece of information concerning a topic. That is its dialogue role.
- (ii) It describes an action or state concerning a subject. That is its function.

If a sentence supplies more than one new piece of information, or describes more than one action or state, it is interpreted as more than one sentence. In our examples, a sentence including an {adverbial} can be interpreted as containing more than one piece of new information and describing more than one function, that is:

- (a) the information and function provided by the {verb} (the main sentence);
- (b) the information and function provided by the {adverbial} concerning the {verb} of the main sentence (the adverbial sentence).

Applying this approach to the first example, we see that it can mean either:

“He cleaned the drain; the cleaning was thorough”, or simply  
“His cleaning of the drain was thorough”.

In the discourse role of the main sentence, the topic of the sentence is “he” and the comment is “cleaned the drain”. For the adverbial sentence, the topic is “his cleaning of the drain” and the comment is “was thorough”. Which of these interpretations is correct depends on whether the speaker and hearer do or do not know that he has cleaned the drain. In speech, a speaker generally distinguishes between the two interpretations by a pause (represented in English writing by a comma) between the sentence and the adverbial if there are two sentences, and by no pause (or comma) if there is only one:

“He cleaned the drain, thoroughly” or “He cleaned the drain thoroughly”.

The same analysis can be applied to the other examples. “We met on Tuesday, as announced” means either:

“We met on Tuesday; the meeting had been announced”, or  
“Our meeting on Tuesday had been announced”

depending on whether the speaker and hearer do or do not know that we have met. In this case, the main sentence can also be expressed by placing the {adverbial} at the start:

“As announced, we met on Tuesday.”

Similarly, a change in word order can be used to distinguish between the two meanings of:

“She needed shelter, urgently” and “She urgently needed shelter”.

The device of placing an {adverbial} at the start can also be used to make it the topic:

“On Tuesday, we went home” means “Tuesday was when we went home”.

This is also an adverbial sentence, but one in which the {adverbial} is the topic, unlike the other examples of adverbial sentences in which the {verb} is the topic.

A sentence containing an {adverbial}, which is not an adverbial sentence, can be ambiguous if it is negative or a question. “The houses were not given slate roofs on Tuesday” can mean either:

“The houses were given slate roofs on another day (such as Wednesday)”, or  
“On Tuesday, the houses were not given slate roofs.”

“Were the houses given slate roofs on Tuesday?” means either:

“Were the houses given slate roofs on another day (such as Wednesday)?”, or  
“On Tuesday, were the houses given slate roofs?”

This is because the {not} or {query} can apply to either the main sentence {verb} or, if the sentence is adverbial, to the {verb} of the adverbial sentence.

For some types of {adverbial}, a structure implying two sentences is more common, for example an {opinion}:

“Interestingly, she was wearing a new outfit.”  
“Surprisingly, he had not yet made up his mind.”

The reason that these are generally two sentences is that the {object} of an {opinion}, in these cases “interest” and “surprise”, is {definite}. The {verb} of the main sentences “was wearing” and “not yet made up his mind” had therefore to be stated separately so that they could become the definite {object} of the {adverbial}.

In our discourse notation, {adverbial} can be expressed simply as two linked sentences. To avoid confusion with the simple sentence without an {adverbial}, we shall use the term *clause* for each part of the sentence, the main clause and the adverbial clause, while reserving *adverbial sentence* for a sentence in which the adverbial is the {verb}. In the examples we have so far examined, the main clause is a selection statement, and the adverbial clause is either a selection statement or a circumstance statement:

“She wrote her thesis at Cambridge.” “She wrote her thesis at a University in East Anglia.”

An {adverbial} can also be an expression with its own {verb}, linked to the main clause by a conjunction:

“She wrote her thesis where she could find the necessary supervision.”

On this basis, the discourse structure of {adverbial} can be summarised:

{definite – select<sub>1</sub>}  
{definite<sub>1</sub> – indefinite – circumstance}/{definite<sub>1</sub> – select}.

In the following sections, we shall examine ten categories of {adverbial}, those of space, time, causation, condition, concession, comparison, observation, supposition, generality, and benefit. We consider both their functional and their discourse structure. We show that {adverbial} of space, time, causation, observation, generality, and benefit provide factual information on the {verb} which they qualify, and are therefore definite or indefinite according to the above pattern, as are certain {adverbial} of condition, concession, and comparison.

However, most {adverbial} of condition, some of concession and comparison, and all {adverbial} of supposition, have an adverbial sentence which is a hypothesis, and whose discourse structure is:

{definite – indefinable} or {definite – not – indefinable}.

In Chapter 14. (Inference), we discuss a further category of adverbials, those which express inference:

“Perhaps it will rain tonight.”  
“Therefore we will not pay the bill until next week.”  
“We are nevertheless not satisfied.”

They can be expressed as adverbial sentences, but with some artificiality, and without adding to the understanding of the sentence:

“That it will rain tonight is possible.”  
“It follows that we will not pay the bill until next week.”  
“Our dissatisfaction is despite...”

While the other ten categories of adverbial considered here are functions, an inference adverbial is a discourse feature. We will therefore not discuss it further in this chapter.

### Adverbials of Space

As discussed in Chapter 15. (The Location and Movement Sentences), location is most commonly expressed as an attribute of an object, and movement is an action which brings that attribute into effect:

|  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| “She fetched the chair into the hall.”             | → | “The chair is in the hall.”                |
| “The newspaper was pushed through the letter-box.” | → | “The newspaper is through the letter-box.” |
| “Mary went from London to Cambridge.”              | → | “Mary was at Cambridge.”                   |
| “The aircraft climbed to 5 miles up.”              | → | “The aircraft was 5 miles up.”             |
| “He sat in the chair.”                             | → | “He was seated in the chair.”              |

These locative attributes can be described by the elements {object – locative – location}.

A locative may also be an {adverbial} which qualifies a dynamic {verb}, meaning that the action of the {verb} takes place at that location:

“He read the newspaper in the library.”  
“She wrote her thesis in Cambridge.”

These may be expressed as adverbial sentences:

“The newspaper reading took place in the library.”  
“The thesis writing took place in Cambridge.”

where “the library” and “Cambridge” are definite. The discourse structure of these adverbial sentences is:

{definite – select}.

Alternatively, the location can be indefinite:

“He read the newspaper in a library in Cambridge.”  
“The newspaper reading took place in a library in Cambridge.”

An adverbial locative can also be a clause, which is also often indefinite:

“We bought our house where we could find work.”  
“Our house-buying took place where we could find work.”

“She painted where there was a studio.” “Her painting took place where there was a studio.”

These adverbial sentences of space are:

{definite – indefinite – circumstance}.

In the case of both definite and indefinite adverbials, the expression “took place in” is the function {locative} and “the library”, “Cambridge”, “a library in Cambridge”, “where we can find work”, and “where there is a studio” are {location}. The adverbial therefore has both a discourse and a functional structure. The discourse structure of the whole sentence is that already identified in the previous section:

{definite – select<sub>1</sub>}  
{definite<sub>1</sub> – indefinite – circumstance}/{definite<sub>1</sub> – select}.

While the {adverbial} has the functional structure:

{object – locative – location}.

In addition to a location in space, a physical entity can also have a spatial extent relative to a base point:

“Mount Everest is 8848 metres high from sea level.”  
“The River Thames is 338 kilometres long from its source to the North Sea.”  
“The powder is one-half dissolved in water.”

As discussed in Chapter 15. (The Constituent Sentence), this is described with the function {constitute}:

{object – constitute – attribute}.

An event which occurs in the physical world can also have a physical extent. Very often, this extent is not an {adverbial} but a {circumstance}:

“He climbed 8848 metres high from sea level.”  
“The river Thames runs 338 kilometres long from its source.”  
“The powder dissolved one-half in water.”

However, if the sentence is selection, the extent can be {adverbial}:

“He climbed Mount Everest, 8848 metres high from sea level.”  
“The river Thames runs to the North Sea, 338 kilometres long from its source.”  
“The powder dissolved one-half in the water.”

Such an {adverbial} again has the functional structure {object – constitute – attribute}.

### **Adverbials of Time**

In Chapter 15. (The Time Sentence), we introduced the {time} function:

“We held the meeting at 10.00”; “We went home on Friday”;

which correspond to the adverbial sentences:

“The meeting took place at 10.00”; “Our departure for home took place on Friday”.

{time} refers to the expressions beginning “took place at ...”, and can only apply to an occurrence. The adverbial sentences have the functional structure {object – time}. Since these {time} are definite, their discourse structure is:

{definite – select}.

It is also possible for a {time} to be indefinite:

“We called the meeting when we were ready.”  
“We will go home before it starts raining.”

The indefinite nature of these {time} is brought out in the adverbial sentences:

“Our calling of the meeting took place at a time when we were ready.”  
“Our departure for home will take place before any rain starts.”

The discourse structure of these adverbial sentences is therefore {definite – indefinite – circumstance}.

The {constitute} function can describe two elapsed periods of time which are the same. The adverbial sentences have the structure {object – constitute – attribute} and employ the English verb “last”:

“We held the meeting for two hours.”      “The meeting lasted two hours.”  
“It rained all week.”      “The rain lasted all week.”

A period of time can also be expressed by an adverbial clause, which can be definite:

“As long as he was in charge, the operation ran smoothly.”  
“The smooth operation lasted for his period in charge.”

Or indefinite:

“While it was raining, they could not go out.”  
“Their inability to go out lasted as long as it was raining.”

A time adverbial can only refer to an occurrence, and its {object} can therefore only be a {verb}, in the form of a grammatical verb or a verbal noun. Time adverbials are closely related to but different from the five discourse elements of aspect which were discussed in Chapter 14. (Aspect):

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| {state}     | a state not arising from a previous action;        |
| {imperfect} | an action which is still proceeding;               |
| {perfect}   | a state arising from a previous action;            |
| {prospect}  | an action which is about to occur;                 |
| {aorist}    | a completed action not resulting in a state.       |
| {already}   | an action or state which is earlier than expected. |
| {still}     | an action or state which is later than expected.   |

The difference is that aspect expresses the general relation in time of one occurrence to other occurrences in the discourse, and is possessed by all sentences. Time adverbials express the precise time and period at which an event occurs, and are only used when that information is required. Sentences have aspect even when no time adverbial is specified:

“We called the meeting.” “We were ready.” “We will go home.” “He was in charge.”  
“The operation ran smoothly.” “They could not go out.” “It was raining.”

Aspect is also the means whereby a sentence distinguishes between a process, a state, and a state resulting from a process:

“We made ourselves ready.” “We were ready.” “We went home.” “We were home.”

## Adverbials of Causation

Causation is expressed by a causing clause, meaning “an event took place which had a result”, and a caused clause, meaning “an event took place caused by the previous event”. Because the causing and the caused events are related, their relation is part of discourse. Let us consider the following examples:

“Because the speech addressed their main concerns, the audience became excited.”  
“Because the wound in my leg has not yet healed, it is causing me pain.”  
“Because she walks a mile every day, she keeps fit.”  
“They gasped with amazement at the outrageousness of the claim.”  
“We shivered because it suddenly became cold.”

Our definition of an {adverbial} is a qualifier of a {verb}, and of an adverbial sentence is one with the qualified {verb} as {subject}. It appears that the caused clause occurs under the stimulus of the causing clause, and therefore the caused clause is an {adverbial} to the {verb} of the causing clause, not the reverse as might be expected. We find that indeed the caused clause can be expressed as an adverbial sentence:

“The speech addressing their main concerns excited the audience.”  
“The unhealed wound in my leg is causing me pain.”  
“Walking a mile every day keeps her fit.”  
“The outrageousness of the claim made them gasp with amazement.”  
“The sudden cold made us shiver.”

In fact, the sentences can be structured with the caused clause rather than the causing clause marked as adverbial:

“The speech addressed their main concerns, so the audience became excited.”  
“The wound in my leg has not yet healed, so it is causing me pain.” Etc.

The caused clause is an effect sentence (Chapter 6., The Effect Function; Chapter 15, The Effect Sentence), of which the {verb} of the causing clause is the {instrument}. They have the general functional structure:

{instrument – effect – object}.

Alternatively, the caused clause may already have an {instrument} or {agent}, in which case the {verb} of the causing clause is the {causer} of the caused clause, which has the structure of a causative sentence (Chapter 11., The Causative Function; Chapter 15., The Causative Sentence):

“Since the rain had cleared, they decided to go out.”  
“The rain had cleared, so they decided to go out.”  
“The clearing of the rain made them decide to go out.”  
  
“Because the accounts were complete and accurate, the auditor signed them off.”  
“The accounts were complete and accurate, so the auditor signed them off.”  
“The completeness and accuracy of the accounts enabled the auditor to sign them off.”  
  
“As arranged, we met in the bar at 19.00.”  
“Our meeting in the bar at 19.00 had been arranged.”

The general functional structure of these adverbial sentences is:

{causer – agent – definite – select}.

It can be argued that some of these causative adverbial sentences can have an indefinite causer:

“A speech addressing their main concerns excited the audience.”  
“An unhealed wound in my leg is causing me pain.”

“A sudden chill made us shiver.”

However, when these sentences are expressed with a full causing clause, it can be seen that they are not a true {adverbial}:

“Because a speech addressed their main concerns, the audience became excited.”  
“Because a wound in my leg has not yet healed, it is causing me pain.”  
“We shivered because of a sudden chill.”

The first two of these sentences introduce a new topic (“a speech”, “a wound”) and are existential. The third is a simple effect sentence. The question remains whether the caused clause can be indefinite as well as definite, as is the case with most of the above examples. We see that it can:

“The speech addressing their main concerns caused excitement.”  
“The unhealed wound in my leg is causing me pain.”  
“Walking a mile every day keeps one fit.”  
“The outrageousness of the claim caused gasps of amazement.”  
“The sudden cold caused a shiver.”

We note also that a causing clause may prevent an event:

“Because it was raining, they could not go out.” “The rain prevented their going out.”  
“Because the accounts were not accurate and complete, the auditor did not sign them off.”  
“The inaccuracy and incompleteness of the accounts prevented the auditor from signing them off.”

These adverbial sentences have the functional structure:

{causer – agent – definite – not – indefinable}.

### **Adverbials of Condition**

As described in Chapter 3. (Conditions), conditions are compound sentences which describe various conditions (protasis) that must be fulfilled or not fulfilled for a conditional (apodosis) to occur or not to occur, under varying degrees of likelihood:

“If he comes, I shall see him.”  
“If he does not come, I shall not see him.”  
“If he were to come, I would see him.”  
“If he were not to come, I would not see him.”  
“If he had come, I would have seen him.”  
“If he had not come, I would not have seen him.”

The first two examples are statements containing new information, which we can call a real condition and real conditional. The last four examples contain statements which have not happened and whose truth is unknown, which we can call a hypothetical condition and hypothetical conditional. The condition and conditional can refer to the same topic:

“If he comes, he will be welcome.”  
“If he were to come, he would be welcome.”

Our definition of an {adverbial} is a qualifier of a {verb}, and of an adverbial sentence is one with the qualified {verb} as {subject}. If we consider three of the examples:

“If he comes, I shall see him”; “If he were to come, I would see him”;  
“If he were to have come, I would have seen him”;

it appears that the occurrence of the verb “see” is dependent on the condition “if he comes”/“if he were to come”. The condition is therefore the {adverbial}, and we find indeed that the conditions can be

expressed as adverbial sentences, whose {subject} is the {verb} of the conditional and whose {verb} is “dependent on” or its equivalent:

“My seeing him is dependent on his coming.”  
“My seeing him would be/would have been dependent on his coming.”

We have already encountered this construction in the dependency sentence (Chapter 6., The Dependency Function; Chapter 15., The Dependency Sentence). Its functional structure is:

{object – depend – indefinable}.

As we have already noted in Chapter 13. (Hypothesis), the discourse structure of the condition adverbial sentence is that of a hypothesis:

{definite – indefinable}.

In this respect, it differs from that of the adverbial sentences of space, time, and causation which we have been considering. Its relationship with the main clause is also different. In adverbials of space, time, and causation, the main clause states a fact, and the adverbial clause provides further information on that fact:

“We bought our house where we could find work.”  
“As long as he was in charge, the operation ran smoothly.”  
“Because she walks a mile every day, she keeps fit.”

In the case of a condition, the main (conditional) clause gives a hypothesis, and the condition clause states a further hypothesis which will become true if the main hypothesis turns out to be true:

“He may come; on the assumption that he does, I shall/shall not see him.”

This can be described in discourse terms as:

{definite – indefinable<sub>1</sub>} {definite<sub>1</sub> – indefinable}.

The discourse structure of the main clause differs from the main clauses of the other {adverbial} that we have noted, which are all statements of fact. However, as we noted, some conditions and conditionals are not hypotheses but relate to events whose occurrences are expected as facts and are therefore {definite} or {indefinite}:

“If he comes, he will be welcome.” “If he comes, I shall see him.”

In this case, the condition means:

“He is expected to come, and when that happens he will be welcome/I shall see him.”

The adverbial sentence is in reality stating a {time}:

“I shall see him/he will be welcome when he comes.”

A real condition according has the functional and discourse structure of a {time} adverbial.

### **Adverbials of Concession**

A concession is a statement that an event (called a *concessional*) will or will not occur independently of whether another event (a *concession*) does or does not occur. It is therefore the antithesis of a condition, by which an event is dependent on another event:

“Although he may come, I shall not see him.”  
“Although he may not come, I shall see him.”  
“Whether or not he comes, I shall not see him.”

“Even if he comes, I shall not see him.”  
“Even if he does not come, I shall see him.”  
“Even if he comes when I am busy, I shall see him.”  
“Even if he comes when I am not busy, I shall not see him.”

The concession is the clause preceded by “although”, “whether or not”, or “even if”, and the remainder is the concessional. The concession does not provide new information, and may express an accepted fact:

“Despite event A, event B will/will not happen.”

We may call this a *definite concession*. Alternatively, the truth of the concession is unknown, so that the sentence means:

“Despite the possibility of A, event B will/will not happen”.

We may call this an *indefinite concession*. The topic of the concession may be the same as the topic of the concessional:

“Although very sick, he will come.”  
“Although he may be very sick, he will come.”

The adverbial sentences of a definite concession may be presented as follows:

“His coming will not cause me to see him.”  
“His failure to come will not prevent me from seeing him.”  
“My business when he comes will not prevent me from seeing him.”  
“My lack of business when he comes will not cause me to see him.”  
“His sickness will not prevent him coming.”

The adverbial sentences of an indefinite concession are:

“His coming would not cause me to see him.”  
“His failure to come would not prevent me from seeing him.”  
“Any business of mine would not prevent me from seeing him.”  
“Any lack of business of mine would not cause me to see him.”  
“Any sickness of his would not prevent him coming.”

These adverbial sentences show that the {adverbial} is not the concession clause, as might be supposed, but the concessional. In fact, a concession sentence can be structured with the concessional clause rather than the concession clause marked as adverbial:

“He may/might come; nevertheless, I shall not/should not see him.”  
“He may/might not come; nevertheless, I shall/should see him.”

The non-standard use of “however” as a conjunction therefore reflects the {adverbial} nature of a concessional:

“He may/might come, however I shall not/should not see him.”  
“He may/might not come, however I shall/should see him.”

In functional terms a concession is a preventive, that is a causative of a negative (Chapter 11., The Causative Function; Chapter 15, The Causative Sentence). A definite concession has the functional structure:

{causer – agent/instrument – not – definite} or  
{causer – not – agent/instrument – not – definite}

and an indefinite concession is:

{causer – agent/instrument – not – indefinable} or  
{causer – not – agent/instrument – not – indefinable}

This negative is the reason that a concession cannot be indefinite. In discourse terms, the two adverbial sentences are:

{definite – not – definite}  
{definite – not – indefinable}.

Because the main clause of a definite concession (a concessional) does not provide new information, it is not a separate sentence, and the above is the full discourse description. However, the main clause of an indefinite concession is a hypothesis, so that its discourse structure is:

{definite – indefinable<sub>1</sub>} {definite<sub>1</sub> – not – definite}/ {definite<sub>1</sub> – not – indefinable}.

### Adverbials of Comparison

Chapter 15. (The Comparison Sentence) shows how a sentence compares a characteristic of an entity against a {base}. The function {compare} is the difference between the two characteristics. Very often, the entity whose characteristic is compared is a {verb}, so that the comparison is an {adverbial}:

“My father lived longer than my mother.”  
“John runs faster than Jim.”  
“Jim has more money than John.”

The corresponding adverbial sentences are:

“My father’s life was longer than my mother’s.”  
“John’s running is faster than Jim’s.”  
“Jim’s money is more than John’s.”

As we have noted, the functional structure of these and other adverbial sentences is:

{object – compare – base}.

In these examples, both the entity which is being compared and the base against which it is being compared are known entities and therefore definite. The sentences are selecting the base as the standard of comparison, which is therefore {select}. In discourse terms, the adverbial comparison sentences are therefore:

{definite – select}.

Since the main sentence does not provide any more information than the adverbial sentence, this is the full functional description.

Alternatively, the comparison is with a hypothetical entity:

“She rode like a whirlwind.” “Her riding was like a whirlwind.”  
“He lives as though there were no tomorrow.”  
“His living is as though there were no tomorrow.”

The functional structure of these adverbial sentences is the same as before. Their discourse structure is:

{definite – indefinable}.

As we showed in Chapter 15. (The Comparison Sentence), this indefinable base may be in the subjunctive:

Italian: “Mi ha guardato come se fossi matto.” “He looked at me as if I were mad.”

[To-me he-has looked as if I-were (subjunctive) mad.]

Hindi: “baccā darvāze par kharā thā jaise kisī ke intazār meḥ ho”  
“The boy was standing at the door as if waiting for someone.”  
[Boy door-on standing was as-if someone-of waiting-in he-was (subjunctive).]<sup>3</sup>

### Adverbials of Observation and Supposition

A further class of {adverbial} involve the conjunction “as” or its equivalent:

“As we learned, he passed his exams.”  
“As we announced, he passed his exams.”  
“Surprisingly, he passed his exams.”  
“As is apparent to all, he has flouted the conventions.”

These {adverbial} state that a known event is perceived or communicated, or an opinion is held on them. The adverbial sentences are:

“His passing of the exams was learned about.” “His passing of the exams was announced.”  
“His passing of the exams caused surprise.”  
“His flouting of the conventions is apparent to all.”

According to Chapter 15., these adverbial sentences are functionally perception, communication, or opinion sentences with the {object} in topic position:

{object – perceive – select/indefinite/circumstance}  
{object – communicate – select/indefinite/circumstance }  
{object – opinion – select/indefinite/circumstance}.

In discourse terms, the adverbial sentences are selection or circumstance. In a further class of {adverbial} with the conjunction “as”, the main clause again refers to a known fact, but which has been subject to a previous supposition or proposal:

“As we expected, he passed his exams.” “His passing of the exams had been expected.”  
“As we promised, he passed his exams.” “His passing of the exams had been promised.”

These adverbial sentences are functionally supposition or proposal sentence with the {object} in topic position:

{object – suppose – indefinable} {object – propose – indefinable},

the {object} being the {verb} of the main clause. In discourse terms, the comment of a supposition or proposal is also {indefinable}, so that that it is {definite – indefinable}.

### Adverbials of Generality

An {adverbial} of generality places a {verb} in a class of actions or states:

“Montmorency was sleeping the sleep of the just.”  
“She diligently did her accounts, as she did every month.”  
“He plays tennis like a maestro.”

The adverbial sentence states the class of actions or states to which the {verb} belongs:

“Montmorency’s sleep was that of a just person.”  
“Her doing of her accounts conformed to her monthly practice.”

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<sup>3</sup> McGregor, 131.

“His tennis playing is in a master class.”

The functional description of such an {adverbial} is that the {verb} belongs to a larger group, which we have called {constitute}, described with an {attribute} (Chapter 15., The Constituent Sentence):

{object – constitute – attribute}.

Both the {verb} and its {constitute} are definite or indefinite.

### **Adverbials of Benefit**

An {adverbial} of benefit states to whose advantage or disadvantage a {verb} has occurred, as we have seen in Chapter 15. (The Benefit Sentence). The sentences:

“Henry cooked lunch for his family.”  
“We bought Simon a bicycle.”  
“An email for you has just come in.”  
“The treatment eased James’ back pain.”

have the adverbial sentences:

“Henry’s lunch cooking was for his family.”  
“The purchase of a bicycle was for Simon.”  
“The arrival of an email is for you.”  
“The back treatment was for James.”

This construction is also applicable if the {object} is definite. The sentences:

“Henry cooked the lunch for his family”;  
“Sheila brought the accounts to good order for the Society”;  
“The drawbridge was raised to let the ship pass”;  
“He opened the dam to let out the flood water”;

have the adverbial sentences:

“Henry’s cooking of the lunch was for his family.”  
“Sheila’s ordering of the accounts was for the Society.”  
“The drawbridge raising was to let the ship pass.”  
“The dam opening was to let out the flood water.”

### **Adverbials of Quantity**

An {adverbial} of quantity states the number of the occurrences of a {verb}:

“The post comes twice a day;” “She gave the lecture three times that week;”

have the adverbial sentences:

“The daily deliveries of the post are two.”  
“The lectures that she gave that week were three.”

An adverbial of quantity is expressed by applying the sentence {object – quantity} as a qualification to the {verb}, for example:

{object – move<sub>1</sub> – locative – location} {object<sub>1</sub> – constitute - attribute}.

An adverbial of quantity includes the concepts of completeness and partiality:

“The drawbridge was completely/partially raised.”