ADVERBIAL CLAUSES

CEFR Level C2 — Mastery

English Language Worksheets | 4 Worksheets + Answer Key

Worksheet 1: Subordination as a Rhetorical Instrument

At C2, clause choice shapes emphasis, rhythm and implication.

Name: _____ Date: _____ Class: _____

Rhetorical uses of adverbial subordination

Device	Effect	Example
periodic sentence	Subordinate clauses first; main clause withheld to the end	“When the lights failed, when the crowd fell silent, he began to sing.”
cumulative inversion	Stacked negative adverbials + inversion for climax	“Never, not once, not even under oath, did he waver.”
concessive irony	A concession clause that quietly undercuts the main claim	“Generous though the offer was, it changed nothing.”
ellipsis in clauses	Omit recoverable words for economy	“When in doubt, ask.” / “Though tired, she continued.”
mixed / counterfactual	Cross time frames in one conditional	“Had she trained harder, she would be competing now.”

PART A — **Identify the device**

Name the device in each sentence and explain its rhetorical effect in context.

1. “Though invited, though free that evening, though curious even, she stayed away.”
Context: a literary novel

Device: _____ Effect: _____

2. “Were the policy merely unpopular, one might forgive it; were it merely costly, one might excuse it.”
Context: a political essay

Device: _____ Effect: _____

3. “Until the accounts are audited, until every figure is verified, no statement will be issued.”
Context: a corporate press release

Device: _____ Effect: _____

4. “Kind though the gesture was, it arrived a decade too late.”
Context: an obituary

Device: _____ Effect: _____

PART B — **Transform for effect**

Rewrite each sentence using the device indicated. The effect must be deliberate.

1 Original: “He finally spoke after the room went quiet and the doors were shut.”
Device: periodic sentence (subordinate clauses first)
→ _____

2 Original: “The plan was ambitious, but it failed.”
Device: concessive irony (‘though’ fronted)
→ _____

3 Original: “If you are unsure, then wait.”
Device: ellipsis
→ _____

Score: _____ / 14

Worksheet 2: Precision — Near-Synonymous Connectors

Mastery means selecting the ONE connector whose logic fits exactly.

Name: _____ Date: _____ Class: _____

PART A — **Study the families**

Family	Members & nuance
concession	although (neutral) · albeit (concedes a phrase) · notwithstanding (formal, + noun) · much as (emphatic, + verb of feeling) · for all ('despite', ironic)
condition	if (open) · unless (negative condition) · provided that (stipulation) · on condition that (formal contract) · should (tentative)
reason	because (direct) · since / as (given/known reason) · inasmuch as (to the extent that) · in that (specifying the respect) · seeing that (informal, self-evident)

Precision cloze: complete each sentence with the ONE connector whose register and logic fit exactly.

1. The proposal is flawed _____ it ignores long-term costs.
2. _____ his many faults, they remained loyal to him.
3. The loan is available _____ the borrower provides collateral.
4. The findings are useful _____ they apply to small samples.
5. _____ the deadline should slip, notify the client at once.
6. _____ I sympathise with her position, I cannot endorse it.
7. The scheme succeeded, _____ at considerable public expense.
8. _____ the appeal was dismissed, the legal costs stood.

PART B — **Defend your choice**

For the sentences using 'in that', 'For all' and 'albeit', explain in one sentence each why the nearest rival connector would fail.

'in that' sentence:

_____

_____

'For all' sentence:

_____

_____

'albeit' sentence:

_____

_____

Score: _____ / 14

Worksheet 3: Style Analysis & Rewriting

How subordination builds argument, cadence and concealed judgement.

Name: _____ Date: _____ Class: _____

PART A — **Analytical reading**

> *That the committee met at all was, given the circumstances, something of a miracle. Members who had not spoken in years arrived early, as though punctuality might atone for a decade of neglect. The chair, notwithstanding her reputation for brevity, spoke for forty minutes; and much as the assembled delegates admired her stamina, few could later recall a single proposal. When at last a vote was called — not because agreement had been reached, but because lunch beckoned — the resolution passed unopposed, albeit unread. Whatever else the meeting achieved, it achieved consensus of the safest kind: the consensus of the indifferent.*

1. Identify FIVE adverbial clauses or connectors and label the relationship each expresses.

_____

_____

_____

2. ‘not because agreement had been reached, but because lunch beckoned’ — analyse the rhetorical effect of the paired reason clauses.

_____

_____

3. How does the concessive ‘notwithstanding her reputation for brevity’ generate irony?

_____

_____

4. In one sentence: what judgement does the writer pass on the committee without stating it?

_____

_____

PART B — **Neutralise the style**

Rewrite the FIRST TWO sentences as neutral minutes of the meeting, stripping irony and evaluative subordination. Then note in one sentence what is lost.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

What is lost: _____

Score: _____ / 16

Worksheet 4: Extended Writing — The Architecture of Subordination

Deploy the full clause repertoire with deliberate, controlled effect.

Name: _____ Date: _____ Class: _____

PART A **The task**

Write a persuasive or satirical passage (200–250 words) on a proposition of your choosing. Requirements: at least SIX different adverbial clause types, of which at least ONE periodic sentence and ONE inverted/reduced structure; a consistent register (academic, journalistic, or literary). Underline each target structure.

Self-check before submitting	✓
Six or more distinct clause types, each underlined	
At least one periodic sentence (main clause withheld)	
At least one inversion or reduced participle clause	
Register consistent from first line to last	
Connectors match logic and register (no ‘albeit’ + full clause, etc.)	
Punctuation of fronted clauses correct	

_____

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_____

_____

Word count: _____ Structures underlined: _____ / 6

Score: _____ / 35

ANSWER KEY & TEACHER NOTES

For teacher use only — C2 Level Worksheets

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Worksheet 1 – Rhetorical Devices

#	Question / Item	Answer / Guidance
A1	'Though invited, though free …'	**Anaphoric concessive ellipsis building to the main clause — the repetition heightens the surprise of her staying away**
A2	'Were the policy merely …'	**Parallel inverted conditionals — the symmetry escalates the indictment before the (implied) verdict**
A3	'Until the accounts …, until every figure …'	**Periodic structure: stacked time clauses withhold the main clause, projecting caution and control**
A4	'Kind though the gesture was …'	**Concessive irony — the praise is granted only to be nullified by 'a decade too late'**
B1	periodic	**e.g. 'After the room went quiet, after the doors were shut, he finally spoke.'**
B2	concessive irony	**e.g. 'Ambitious though the plan was, it failed.'**
B3	ellipsis	**e.g. 'When unsure, wait.' / 'If unsure, wait.'**

Worksheet 2 – Precision Cloze

#	Question / Item	Answer / Guidance
A	Gaps 1–8 in order	**1 in that, 2 For all, 3 provided that (on condition that), 4 inasmuch as, 5 Should, 6 Much as, 7 albeit, 8 Notwithstanding (that)**
B (in that)	in that vs because	**'In that' specifies the respect in which the proposal is flawed; 'because' would assert a plain cause rather than pinpoint the failing**
B (For all)	For all vs despite	**'For all' carries a resigned, ironic colouring ('despite all of them'); plain 'despite' would be flatter and less idiomatic before 'his many faults'**
B (albeit)	albeit vs although	**'Albeit' concedes the single phrase 'at considerable public expense'; 'although' would require a full clause ('although it was expensive')**

Worksheet 3 – Style Analysis

#	Question / Item	Answer / Guidance
Q1	Five clauses + relationships	**'given the circumstances' (reason/concession); 'as though punctuality might atone …' (manner); 'notwithstanding her reputation for brevity' (concession); 'much as the delegates admired her stamina' (concession); 'When at last a vote was called' (time); 'because lunch beckoned' (reason); 'Whatever else the meeting achieved' (concession)**
Q2	paired reason clauses	**The antithesis ('not because … but because …') deflates the proceedings: a trivial motive (lunch) is set grammatically equal to a serious one (agreement), exposing the futility**

#	Question / Item	Answer / Guidance
Q3	notwithstanding … brevity	**It sets up an expectation (she is known for being brief) only to contradict it (forty minutes) — the concession frames the irony**
Q4	implied judgement	**The committee was performative and pointless — its unanimity reflects indifference, not agreement — though the passage never says so outright**
B	Neutral rewrite	**e.g. 'The committee met. Several members who had not attended for years arrived early.' Lost: irony, cadence and the writer's concealed verdict — the events survive; the critique disappears**

Worksheet 4 – Extended Writing Rubric

Criterion	Descriptor	Marks
Clause range	Six or more distinct clause types, deliberately deployed and underlined	0–8
Advanced structures	Periodic sentence + inversion/reduction, both effective	0–8
Register	Chosen register sustained without lapses	0–7
Accuracy	Connector logic, agreement and punctuation all error-free	0–6
Effect	The passage genuinely persuades or amuses; subordination earns its place	0–6