Questions & Negatives

CEFR B2 · Subordination, participle clauses and cohesive precision

WS1 Varying Subordination · WS2 Participle & Non-finite Clauses · WS3 Cohesion & Reference · WS4 Analysis & Writing · Answer Key

Worksheet 1: Varying Subordination

Name: _____ Date: _____ Level: B2 (CEFR)

Reference: Same Meaning, Different Structures

At B2, fluency means expressing one idea through several structures and choosing for emphasis and flow. Concession, condition, and reason can each be signalled by conjunctions, prepositional phrases, or inversion. Sentence variety and end-focus become deliberate choices.

Meaning	Structures available	Example
Concession	although / despite + noun / much as	**Despite** the rain, we went.
Condition	if / provided that / as long as / unless	**Provided that** you pay, it's fine.
Reason	because / owing to / given that	**Given that** it's late, let's stop.
Result	so … that / such … that	It was **so** cold **that** pipes froze.
Contrast	whereas / while / on the contrary	He saves, **whereas** she spends.

Part A – Rewrite Keeping the Meaning

Rewrite using the structure in brackets.

1. Although he was tired, he kept working. (despite) _____
2. Because there was a strike, trains stopped. (owing to) _____
3. The soup was very salty. I couldn't eat it. (so … that) _____
4. If you don't practise, you won't improve. (unless) _____

Part B – Combine with End-Focus

Combine each pair so the most important idea comes last.

#	Two ideas	Combined (end-focus on the key idea)
1	The results surprised everyone. They were released today.	
2	Nobody expected it. The company collapsed.	
3	She had trained for years. She finally won.	

Score: ____ / 20

Worksheet 2: Participle & Non-finite Clauses

Name: _____ Date: _____ Level: B2 (CEFR)

Reference: Shorter, Tighter Clauses

Participle clauses (*-ing*, *-ed*) and *to*-infinitive clauses replace longer finite clauses, making writing more concise. The subject of a participle clause must match the subject of the main clause — otherwise it "dangles".

Type	Finite version	Non-finite version
-ing (reason/time)	Because she felt ill, she left.	**Feeling** ill, she left.
-ed (passive)	As it was built in 1900, it's old.	**Built** in 1900, it's old.
Perfect -ing	After he had eaten, he slept.	**Having eaten**, he slept.
to-infinitive (purpose)	She called so that she could confirm.	She called **to confirm**.

> **Dangling participle: ✗ Running for the bus, my bag fell open. (the bag wasn't running) → ✓ Running for the bus, I felt my bag fall open.**

Part A – Reduce to a Participle Clause

1. Because I didn't know the way, I asked. → _____
2. The house, which was painted white, stood out. → _____
3. After she had finished, she left. → _____
4. He waved his arms so that he could get attention. → _____

Part B – Fix the Dangling Participle

#	Faulty sentence	Correction
1	Walking home, the rain started.	
2	Written in a hurry, I made mistakes in the letter.	
3	Having arrived late, the meeting had begun.	
4	To improve, more practice is needed by students.	

Score: _____ / 25

Worksheet 3: Cohesion & Reference

Name: _____ Date: _____ Level: B2 (CEFR)

Reference: Holding a Text Together

Cohesion links sentences through reference (*this, these, such, the former*), substitution (*one, do so*), ellipsis (leaving out repeated words), and conjunction. Skilled writers vary these to avoid repetition while keeping the thread clear.

Device	Function	Example
Reference	point back/forward	The plan failed. **This** surprised no one.
Substitution	replace a word	I need a pen. Do you have **one**?
Ellipsis	omit repeated words	She can swim, but I can't [swim].
Conjunction	signal relation	It was cheap; **moreover**, it worked.

Part A – Improve the Cohesion

Rewrite each pair using reference, substitution, or ellipsis to avoid repetition.

1. The proposal was rejected. The rejection angered the staff. _____
2. I bought a red shirt. My brother bought a blue shirt. _____
3. She promised to help. She didn't help in the end. _____

Part B – What Does the Reference Point To?

Underline what each bold word refers back to.

1. The team missed the deadline and lost the client. **This** led to layoffs.
2. Two options remained. **The former** was cheaper; the latter, faster.
3. He said he'd resign, and he did **so** the next day.

Part C – Fill the Cohesive Gap

Complete with *this, such, one, do so,* or *the latter*.

1. They offered tea or coffee; I chose _____.
2. Sales fell sharply. _____ forced a rethink.
3. We had never seen _____ a storm before.
4. He was asked to apologise, and he _____ at once.

Score: _____ / 30

Worksheet 4: Analysis & Writing

Name: _____ Date: _____ Level: B2 (CEFR)

Part A – Passage Analysis

Founded in a small workshop and run for years by a single family, the company had thrived quietly. Having survived two recessions, it seemed unshakeable. When the market shifted, however, it was slow to react. Sales, which had climbed steadily for a decade, began to fall; this alarmed investors. Although management promised reform, few believed them. Owing to mounting debts, the board was forced to act — and act quickly.

1. Identify the two participle clauses and rewrite each as a full finite clause.
2. Find one non-defining relative clause and explain its punctuation.
3. What does "this" refer to? Discuss how the reference aids cohesion.
4. The writer varies concession, reason, and contrast. Locate one example of each.

Part B – Extended Writing

Write 160–190 words (a report, review, or narrative). You must include and underline: (1) at least two **participle or non-finite clauses**; (2) at least two different **subordination structures** for concession/reason/result; (3) at least two **cohesive devices** (reference, substitution, or ellipsis); (4) consistent register.

#	Line
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	

Participle: _____ / 2 Subordination: _____ / 2 Cohesion: _____ / 2 Score: _____ / 35

Answer Key & Teacher Notes

For teacher use only — B2 Level, Sentence Structures

Worksheet 1 – Part A (model)

1 Despite being tired, he kept working. / Despite his tiredness… · 2 Owing to a strike, trains stopped. · 3 The soup was so salty that I couldn't eat it. · 4 Unless you practise, you won't improve.

Worksheet 1 – Part B (model)

1 Released today, the results surprised everyone. / The results, released today, surprised everyone. · 2 The company collapsed, which nobody expected. / Nobody expected the company to collapse. · 3 Having trained for years, she finally won.

Worksheet 2 – Part A (model)

1 Not knowing the way, I asked. · 2 Painted white, the house stood out. · 3 Having finished, she left. · 4 He waved his arms to get attention.

Worksheet 2 – Part B (model)

1 Walking home, I was caught in the rain. (subject must be the walker) · 2 Written in a hurry, the letter had mistakes. / Because I wrote it in a hurry, I made mistakes. · 3 Having arrived late, I found the meeting had begun. · 4 To improve, students need more practice.

The recurring fault is subject mismatch: the implied subject of the participle must be the grammatical subject of the main clause.

Worksheet 3 – Part A (model)

1 The proposal was rejected, which angered the staff. · 2 I bought a red shirt; my brother, a blue one. · 3 She promised to help but didn't (in the end).

Worksheet 3 – Part B

1 **This** = missing the deadline and losing the client (the whole situation). · 2 **The former** = the first of the two options. · 3 **so** = resign (substitutes the verb).

Worksheet 3 – Part C

1 the latter · 2 This · 3 such · 4 did so

Worksheet 4 – Part A (model)

1 "Founded in a small workshop and run … by a single family" → As it had been founded in a small workshop and was run by a single family… / "Having survived two recessions" → After it had survived two recessions… · 2 "Sales, which had climbed steadily for a decade, began to fall" — non-defining, so commas; it adds extra, non-identifying information. · 3 "this" = the fall in sales; it packages the previous clause into a single subject, tightening the link. · 4 Concession: "Although management promised reform"; Reason: "Owing to mounting debts"; Contrast: "When the market shifted, however".

Worksheet 4 – Part B: Marking Rubric

Criterion	Descriptor	Marks
Non-finite clauses	Two+, correct subject; no dangling participles	0–5
Subordination variety	Two+ distinct structures used accurately	0–4

Cohesion	Reference/substitution/ellipsis used naturally	0–3
Register & task	160–190 words; consistent register	0–3