

Ellipsis and Substitution: In Adverbial and Relative Clauses

USE

It is common to “reduce” or shorten sentences in English by removing repetitive or understood information.

In **Relative Clauses** containing passive verbs, the **relative pronoun and the verb “be” are usually left out**. These words are understood in the clause.

We studied many books (which had been written by various authors).

Relative Clause

= We studied many books written by various authors. (omit relative pronoun + be)

In **Adverbial Clauses** the **subject and verb are left out** when the subject is the same as the subject of the main clause. The adverbial clause can appear at the beginning or end of the sentence. A comma is needed if the clause appears at the beginning.

I listened to the radio (while I was driving home).

Adverbial Clause

= I listened to the radio while driving home. (omit subject and verb from clause)

= While driving home, I listened to the radio.

Rewrite the following sentences containing RELATIVE and ADVERBIAL CLAUSES. Leave out unnecessary words to reduce the sentences.

1. While she was living in Japan, she studied flower arranging.

2. I looked at many photographs which had been taken all over the world.

3. The Prime Minister talked to students who had been chosen from schools across the country.

4. We saw a moose and a bear while we were hiking in the mountains.

5. The museum displayed artefacts which had been collected in several African countries.
