

Sample Note

The following samples from the *Blue Star* text and mission manual are from two different lessons. They will give you an idea of whether or not the curriculum is a good fit for your student.

To download a complete sample lesson, visit <http://GrammarGalaxyBooks.com/samples>. Review the included scope & sequence for lessons taught at each level. Having your student take [the placement quiz](#) may help you determine which level to start with. Find answers to other questions in the FAQ section at <http://GrammarGalaxyBooks.com/faq>. But if you still have questions, feel free to ask in the Grammar Guardians Facebook group: <http://Facebook.com/groups/grammarguardians>, or email me at grammargalaxybooks@gmail.com.

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Grammar Galaxy Scope & Sequence

Nebula – 1 st /2 nd grade	Protostar – 3 rd grade	Yellow Star – 4 th grade	Red Star – 5 th grade	Blue Star – 6 th grade
Literature	Literature	Literature	Literature	Literature
Importance of Reading	Book Reports	Graphic Novels	Theme	Lit Unit Study
Reading from Context	Classics	Drawing Conclusions	Supporting Evidence	Tone & Mood
Reading Comprehension	Myths	Character Traits	Author Study	Short Stories
Identifying Fiction & Nonfiction	Fables	Point of View	Symbolism	Allusions
Story Elements	Autobiographies	Personification	Foreshadowing	Narrative Poems
Tall Tales	Alliteration	Similes & Metaphors	Flashback	Nonfiction Comprehension
Rhyming Words	Story Action	World Literature	Hyperbole	Urban Legends
Vocabulary	Drama Terms	Spelling & Vocabulary	Humor	Shakespeare
Synonyms & Antonyms	Spelling & Vocabulary	Prefixes, Suffixes & Root Words	Spelling & Vocabulary	Satire
Vocabulary	Homophones	Verb Confusion	Overused Words	Spelling & Vocabulary
Fix the Prefixes	Acronyms	Strong Vocabulary	Slang & Jargon	Science vocabulary
Fix the Suffixes	Root Words	Unusual Spellings	Word Analogies	Oxymoron
Superlatives	Idioms	Strategies for Commonly Misspelled	Prefixes, Suffixes & Root Words	Onomatopoeia
Spelling	Dictionary Skills	Foreign Words	Apostrophes	British spelling
Alphabetizing	Spelling Rules	Tricky Capitalization	Hyphens	British vocabulary
Syllables	Grammar	Grammar	Tricky Homophones	Confused vocabulary
Phonics	Possessive Nouns & Pronouns	Abstract Nouns	Shades of Meaning	Vocabulary mnemonics
Spelling with Phonics	Helping Verbs	Appositives	Writing Numbers	Prefixes/Suffixes/Root
Compound Words	Verb Tenses	Pronoun-Antecedent Agreement	Grammar	High frequency words
Contractions	Irregular Verbs	Direct Objects	Participles	Grammar
Abbreviations	Linking Verbs	Subject-Verb Agreement	Objects of Prepositions	Diagramming
Grammar	Prepositions	Perfect Tense	Subject vs. Object Pronouns	Grammatical Mood
Nouns	Parts of Speech	Adjective-Adverb Confusion	Interrogative Pronouns	Infinitives
Common & Proper Nouns	Subjects	Comparative Confusion	Demonstrative Pronouns & Adjectives	Progressive Tense
Singular & Plural Nouns	Predicates	Double Negatives	Reflexive Pronouns	Adverbial Clauses
Pronouns	Compound Subjects & Predicates	Indirect Objects	Indefinite Pronouns	Relative Pronouns
Articles	Commas	Coordinating Conjunctions	Independent vs. Dependent Clauses	Misplaced Modifiers
Adjectives	Composition & Speaking	Interjections	Colons & Semi-Colons	Dashes, Parentheses
Verbs	Copywork	Composition & Speaking	Composition & Speaking	Parallel Structure
Adverbs	Combining Short Sentences	Dictation	Business Letter	Composition & Speaking
End Marks	Sentences & Fragments	Proofreading	Descriptive Writing	Morning Pages
Quotation Marks	Paragraphs	Run-On Sentences	Sentence Starters	Passive Voice
Composition & Speaking	Word Order	Transition Words	Working with a Writing Partner	Profile Essays
Handwriting	Story Completion	Possibility Thinking	Creating Titles	Writing Summaries
Forms	Encyclopedias	Audience	Advice Column	Persuasive Speech
Thank-You Notes	Shape Poems	Titles	Choosing a Research Paper Topic	News Article
Directions	Friendly Letters	Writing Realistic Fiction	Note-Taking & Outlining	Compare/Contrast
Introductions	Keyboarding	Ad Copy	Citing References	Slogans
Reading Aloud	Keywords	Lipograms	Informative Speaking	Gift Poem
Storytelling				



Chapter 7

The queen was so excited about her announcement that she could hardly control herself. “We have a special treat for you children. We are going camping!”

“Camping?” they responded excitedly.

“Yes, camping. I finally talked your mother into it by agreeing to rent an RV. That’s an acronym for recreational vehicle,” the king said.

“Yes, and it’s a beautiful RV with every **convenient** feature,” the queen added.

“Is Cook coming with us?” Ellen asked.

“No, I’m going to be cooking,” the queen answered.

“And I’ll be barbecuing,” the king added.

The children seemed concerned.

“Don’t you worry. We have been collecting some tried-and-true recipes,” the queen said proudly.

“Is Cook going to practice with you before we go?” Ellen asked hesitantly.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

convenient – *helpful*

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

“No, I haven’t asked her to help. But I suppose I could,” the queen said, considering. She tried not to take offense to Ellen’s suggestion.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

That weekend, the children were **exuberant** as they headed to the campground in the RV.

exuberant – *enthusiastic*

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

“Do we have what we need to make s’mores?” Luke asked.

“Indeed, we do,” the queen answered cheerily.

“Don’t worry, Mother. I know how to make them. We made them at Ryan’s house,” he said.

“All right. I won’t worry,” she said, smiling.

With some impatience and confusion, the king managed to get the RV hooked up at their campsite. When he finished, he announced that the family would be going for a hike.

They hiked along a creek, taking time to dip in the water when they felt too warm. The queen pointed out unique plants and wildlife as they walked.

That evening, the boys helped their father build a campfire. They were proud of their accomplishment. Ellen and the queen handed them the foil-wrapped sandwiches that Cook had insisted on preparing. Later, the family declared them delicious and perfectly toasted.

For dessert, they had fun roasting their marshmallows and adding them to graham crackers and chocolate. Ellen was enjoying hers when she got a message on her communicator.

Ellen read the message and gasped.

“What is it? Is something wrong?” the queen asked.

“Yes. No. I want to go home,” Ellen said frantically.

“What on English? What was the message you got?” the king asked.

“It’s, it’s, we’re not safe,” Ellen stammered.

“Why aren’t we safe, dear?” the queen asked in a soothing voice.

Ellen wondered if telling her family would do more harm than good. But she decided to be honest. “Because of the spiders,” she said.

“What?” Luke exclaimed, laughing. “Because of spiders? You’re afraid of spiders, so we have to go home?”

The queen hushed him. “What did you read that has you so frightened of spiders?” she asked her daughter.

Ellen reluctantly handed her mother the communicator. The queen read the message and tried not to laugh. But Ellen noticed. “How can you think that’s funny?” Ellen wailed, running to the RV.

“Girls,” Luke said to Kirk with an eye roll.

“What did the message say?” the king asked.

“It was a story about a girl who went camping and was bitten on the cheek by a spider. Weeks later, baby spiders hatched from her cheek.”

“Ack,” Luke said. “That’s gross. No wonder Ellen is scared.”

“Perhaps it is wise for us to leave,” Kirk said. “There are quite a few spiders here,” he said, surveying the ground warily.

The king laughed. “Kirk, the message Ellen received is what is called an urban legend.” Before Kirk could ask more, he asked his wife to call Ellen back outside. While she did, the king used his communicator to produce an article on urban legends. He read it for the family.

Urban Legends
<p>Urban legends are scary or funny fictional stories presented as true tales. Urban legends, also called urban myths, are spread orally and in written form. These stories often arise out of a combination of fear and lack of information.</p> <p>The tale usually involves a friend or a friend of a friend. Thus, determining if the story is true is more difficult. The stories are often changed as they are spread to include local details, making them more believable. The stories often have a moral or warning.</p> <p>Urban legends may be based on actual events or are at least plausible. Urban legends, once spread, can be difficult to disprove. Consult a website that fact checks these stories before sharing them.</p>

“So, you’re saying it’s not true that spiders hatched out of that girl’s cheek? My friend said it happened to her friend’s friend.” Ellen said.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

plausible – *believable*

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

“That’s what I’m saying, my dear,” the king said.

“I’m still afraid that could happen to me,” Ellen said, shuddering.

The king used his communicator to fact check the story. In a moment he read aloud. “Spiders cannot lay eggs inside or live inside the skin or *any part of the human body*,” he said with emphasis.

Ellen looked hopeful for a moment. Then she said, “Maybe the Gremlin wants us to *think* that spiders don’t lay eggs inside us when they actually *do*.”

The king sighed but replied patiently. “Ellen, the Gremlin’s goal is to destroy the English language. He isn’t known for being an insect terrorist.”

Ellen giggled nervously at first. Then the family joined her in real laughter.

“There’s one thing that still bothers me,” Ellen said.

“Ticks?” Luke suggested mischievously.

“No,” Ellen said, scowling. “It’s urban legends. My friends send me stories like this a lot. I don’t think they know that they’re not true.”

“You make an excellent point, Ellen. I know we’re camping, but I think you three should send a mission to the guardians on urban legends,” the king said.

The English children agreed. They used their communicators to put together a mission before they turned in for the night.



What does *plausible* mean?

Why did Ellen want to leave the campground early?

Why do you think urban legends are hard to disprove?

OFFICIAL GUARDIAN MAIL



Mission 23: Adverbial Clauses & Phrases

Dear guardians,

Wherever you are. As long as it takes. While adverbial clauses and phrases are being overused. On planet Sentence. Because of *TheyDunnit*.

Please complete this mission. Until Father gets the show to stop airing. We've included information you'll need.

Sincerely,

Kirk, Luke, and Ellen English

Guardians of Grammar Galaxy

Adverbial Clauses & Phrases

Adverbial phrases are groups of words that function as adverbs (communicating where, when, how, or why) that don't include both a subject and predicate. They may be prepositional phrases, infinitives, or an adverb pairing.

I can read **in the car**. (prepositional phrase communicating where)

I like reading **to pass the time**. (adverb communicating why)

I like reading mysteries **very quickly**. (adverb pairing communicating how)

Adverbial clauses are dependent clauses that include both a subject and predicate, or these are understood from the sentence.

Some common conjunctions used in adverbial clauses are listed in the chart below.

Communicates	Conjunctions	Example
Where	anywhere, everywhere, where, wherever	I like to read wherever I can find a comfy spot .
When	after, as long as, before, since, when, while, until	I like to read before I go to bed .
How	although, as, if, like, though, unless, while	I read as quietly as I can if I am up late .
Why	because, given, in order to, since, so that	I stay up late reading because I want to finish the book .



Step 2: Find the Adverbial Clause or Phrase

Read each sentence. Then highlight the adverbial clause or phrase in each.

1. *TheyDunnit* was filmed where the crime took place.
2. The show's host was shown in a cornfield.
3. To increase the mystery, the background was blurred.
4. After the commercial, the scene switched to main street.
5. The host said the location was "hot" to give a clue.
6. While he spoke, people entered a brick building.
7. Luke thought it was a bank, though he wasn't sure.
8. So that viewers would keep tuning in, very few clues were given.

Activity. Play a game of Cold-Warm-Hot with your teacher, a sibling, or a friend, using a reward you've hidden. Use an adverbial phrase or clause each time you say cold, warm, or hot. For example, "When you take two steps forward, you'll be hot."



Step 3: Write Complete Sentences with Adverbial Clauses

Adverbial clauses are not complete sentences. Add to them so they make sense. Review the story for ideas.

1. After the commercial plays, _____
_____.
2. If they don't give us more clues, _____
_____.
3. _____ where he was.
4. _____ as if he
would never be caught.
5. _____
because no one is making sense.
6. If I could have a report from planet Sentence, _____
_____.
7. As the show's popularity increased, _____
_____.
8. Unless we do something, _____
_____.

Vocabulary Victory! Do you remember what these words mean? Check Step 1 if you need a reminder.

depicted	The story depicted a man who had successfully stolen five million dollars.
palatial	The man gave the camera crew a tour of the palatial home he'd purchased with the money.
intoned	"I'm here in the place where our criminal stole five million dollars," he intoned dramatically.

OFFICIAL GUARDIAN MAIL



Mission 23: Update

Dear guardians,

Thank you! We are back to speaking in complete sentences because of your completed mission. The words on planet Sentence loved getting your theories on where, when, and how the thief of *TheyDunnit* stole the money. It helped that you used adverbial clauses and phrases, too! There have been no complaints that the show isn't airing on the planet. That's a relief. These clauses and phrases are important to solving mysteries, so we will keep checking your knowledge of them in future missions.

Sincerely,

Kirk, Luke, and Ellen English

Guardians of Grammar Galaxy

P.S. We are including the solutions to this mission.

Step 1 Solutions**On Guard.**

- Which verb is in progressive tense?
ate will be eating
- Which of these is an infinitive?
to eat will have been eating
- Which sentence is in the subjunctive mood?
I wish that children be given books as gifts.
Hand me my book.
- Which sentence would be diagrammed without a slanted line?
Children enjoy ball games.
Kids climb trees.
- Which word is spelled incorrectly?
believe allready

Identify clauses and phrases.

- The kids had to help clean up because they had disobeyed their parents.
clause phrase
- As soon as dinner was over, they got to work.
clause phrase
- But they loved cleaning to help Cook.
clause phrase
- Cook loved having them in the kitchen.
clause phrase
- The queen was concerned, though the show wasn't scary.
clause phrase
- The children finished their work very quickly.
clause phrase
- They wanted to be ready to watch the show.
clause phrase
- They knew they couldn't watch unless their parents approved.
clause phrase

Step 2 Solutions

- TheyDunnit* was filmed where the crime took place.
- The show's host was shown in a cornfield.
- To increase the mystery, the background was blurred.
- After the commercial, the scene switched to main street.
- The host said the location was "hot" to give a clue.
- While he spoke, people entered a brick building.
- Luke thought it was a bank, though he wasn't sure.
- So that viewers would keep tuning in, very few clues were given.

Step 3 Solutions – answers will vary

- After the commercial plays, they'll give us more clues.
- If they don't give us more clues, we won't know where he stole the money.
- The blurred background didn't help us identify where he was.
- The thief bragged as if he would never be caught.
- Something is wrong because no one is making sense.
- If I could have a report from planet Sentence, I could identify the problem.
- As the show's popularity increased, people began using more adverbial phrases and clauses.
- Unless we do something, we won't be able to communicate.