

Online Exercises: Chapter 8.

Although the Duke of Wellington was attending the Duchess of Richmond's glittering ball in Brussels that evening, he was aware that Napoleon's troops were deploying to the South at Charleroi because his spies had been sending him regular reports since he left London. This evening's report that things were hotting up demanded immediate action so, while the music played and the dancers danced, he quietly called the officers of his high command together in another room. After he had consulted the maps, he asked them if they could leave immediately and deploy their troops to Quatre Bras near Waterloo early in the morning. The Duke knew Blucher's Prussians had been held up in the East but he thought it was just possible that they would arrive in time, if his own army could only hold out long enough. The Duchess had noticed that most of the officers were disappearing and, despite the fact that one of the greatest battles in European history was being prepared for, she was mightily annoyed that her ball was being interrupted so inconsiderately. Few of those officers would ever dance again.

1. Identify all the subordinate clauses in the above passage and give their functions.
(Careful! Several subordinate clauses are contained with others.)

A tip for distinguishing between prepositions taking a clausal complement and subordinating conjunctions (which are part of adverbial clauses):

Prepositions can also be complemented by NPs but subordinating conjunctions only ever introduce a clause.

2. What is the main verb of the 1st sentence? And the main verb of the 2nd sentence?
3. Try drawing an Abbreviated Clausal Analysis of the 1st sentence.
4. On page 176, I noted that the interrogative complementiser *whether* could sometimes be replaced by *if* and I referred to examples [16]-[19] on page 175. (There's an instance of this in the above passage.)
 - (a): Under what circumstance can *if* **not** replace *whether*?
 - (b): What do you suppose is the reason for that?