Reduction of Adverb Clauses to Modifying Phrases

General Rules

Rule 1: If the main verb of the adverb clause is the be verb, omit the subject and the be verb.

While I was walking down the street, I came across a very strange guy.

While walking down the street, I came across a very strange guy.

Rule 2: If the main verb of the adverb clause is NOT the be verb, omit the subject and change the verb to ~ing.

Before I go to school in the morning, I usually take a shower.

Before going to school in the morning, I usually take a shower.

Rule 3: The reduction is possible only when the subjects of the adverb clause and the main clause are the same.
(In very formal English, is is sometimes possible to use the different subjects.)

Before he came, I had already finished my homework.

[The adverb clause in this sentence cannot be reduced to a phrase.]

Time: Since, After, and Before

Since I came to the U.S.A., I have been studying English.

Since coming to the U.S.A., I have been studying English.

After I finished my homework, I went to the party.

After I had finished my homework, I went to the party.

After finishing my homework, I went to the party.

After having finished my homework, I went to the party.

Before I came to the U.S.A., I lived in Australia.

I lived in Australia before I came to the U.S.A.

Before coming to the U.S.A., I lived in Australia.

I lived in Australia before coming to the U.S.A.
Reduction of Adverb Clauses to Modifying Phrases (continued)

Time: While (during the same time)

While I was watching TV, I heard someone knock on the door.

While watching TV, I heard someone knock on the door.
Watching TV, I heard someone knock on the door. [While can be omitted.]

Cause and Effect

Because he wanted more money, he accepted the offer.
[Wanted is omitted.]
Wanting more money, he accepted the offer.

Because I didn’t want to hurt her, I didn’t tell her the truth.
[Wanting is omitted.]
Not wanting to hurt her, I didn’t tell her the truth.

Because I (have) lived in the city before, I have many friends there.
[The time in the adverb clause is before the main clause.]
Having lived in the city before, I have many friends there.

Because I had read the book before, I didn’t read it again.
[Having read is omitted.]
Having read the book before, I didn’t read it again.

Because she was anxious to see them, she couldn’t sleep that night.
[Being is omitted.]
Anxious to see them, she couldn’t sleep that night. [Being can be omitted.]

Time + Cause & Effect: Upon -ing / On -ing

When she heard the news, Jennifer burst into tears.
[Immediately after she heard the news (and because she heard it), she burst into tears.]

Upon hearing the news, Jennifer burst into tears.
On hearing the news, Jennifer burst into tears.