

Noun Clauses

ENGLISH GRAMMAR
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Noun clauses

FUNCTIONS OF NOUN CLAUSE:

- ⊗ Subject
- ⊗ Subject complement
- ⊗ Direct object
- ⊗ Object complement
- ⊗ Object of the preposition
- ⊗ Adjective phrase complement
- ⊗ Appositive



1. NOUN CLAUSE AS THE SUBJECT OF A SENTENCE:

Good Job!



- The first grammatical function that noun clauses perform is the subject. A subject is a word, phrase, or clause that performs the action of or acts upon the verb
- **Example:**
- Whoever ate my lunch is in big trouble.
- How you will finish all your homework on time is beyond me.
- That the museum cancelled the lecture disappoints me.
- For you to not graduate from college now is such as shame.

DEPENDENT CLAUSES

- functions not as a sentence but as a part of speech (a **noun** or an **adjective** or an **adverb**).

Therefore, it cannot stand alone as a sentence.

- It is attached to some part of an **INDEPENDENT** clause.

3. NOUN CLAUSE AS DIRECT OBJECT:

- ⊗ A direct object is a word, phrase, or clause that follows a transitive verb and answers the question “who?” or “what?” receives the action of the verb.
- ⊗ **Examples:**
- ⊗ The counselor has been wondering if she chose the right career.
- ⊗ Do you know when the train should arrive?
- ⊗ Our dog eats whatever we put in his bowl.
- ⊗ I would hate for you to get hurt.

5. NOUN CLAUSE AS PREPOSITIONAL COMPLEMENT:

- ⊗ The sixth grammatical function that noun clauses perform is the prepositional complement. A prepositional complement is a word, phrase, or clause that directly follows a preposition and completes the meaning of the prepositional phrase.
- ⊗ **Examples:**
- ⊗ Some people believe in whatever organized religion tells them.
- ⊗ We have been waiting for whoever will pick us up from the party.

PERFORMANCE OF A NOUN CLAUSE

- ◉ Noun clauses perform the same functions in sentences that **nouns** do:
 - As a **subject** → What Billy did shocked his friends.
 - As an **object** → Billy's friends didn't know that he couldn't swim.
 - After **a preposition** → Mary is not responsible for what Billy did.

PERFORMANCE OF A NOUN CLAUSE

- ◉ As a **subject complement** → Billy's mistake was that he refused to take lessons.
- ◉ As an **adjective complement** → Everybody is sad that Billy drowned.

TO FORM A NOUN CLAUSE

- ◉ To change **a statement** to a noun clause use **that**:

➤ I know + Billy made a mistake =
I know that Billy made a mistake.

- ◉ To change **a yes/no question** to a noun clause, use **if** or **whether**:

➤ George wonders + Does Fred know how to cook? =

George wonders if Fred knows how to cook.

TO FORM A NOUN CLAUSE

- ◉ To change a **wh-question** to a noun clause, use the **wh-word**:
- I don't know + Where is George? =
I don't know where George is.

NOUN CLAUSE MARKERS

- ◉ Here is a list of the **noun clause markers**:
 - that
 - if, whether
 - **Wh-words**: how, what, when, where, which, who, whom, whose, why
 - **Wh-ever words**: however, whatever, whenever, wherever, whichever, whoever, whomever

Noun Clauses

* A noun clause is a dependent/ subordinate clause that plays the role of a noun (i.e., name a person, a place or a thing)

* Like any noun, a noun clause can be a subject, an object, or a complement.

1. A noun clause can be a subject of a verb:

What Billy did shocked his friends.

2. A noun clause can be an object of a verb:

Billy's friends didn't know that he couldn't swim.

3. A noun clause can be a subject complement:

Billy's mistake was that he refused to take lessons.

4. A noun clause can be an object of a preposition:

Mary is not responsible for what Billy did.

5. A noun clause (but not a noun) can be an adjective complement:

Everybody is sad that Billy drowned.

Words that introduce noun clauses

- **Who**
- **Whom**
- **Whose**
- **Which**
- **That**
- **If**
- **Whether**
- **What**
- **When**

Noun Clauses

A noun clause functions like a noun or a noun phrase.

Depending on the structure of the given sentence,
the noun clause may be used as ;

- ☞ - a subject
- ☞ - an object
- ☞ - an object of preposition
- ☞ - a complement
- ☞ - a noun clause in apposition to an antecedent noun.

- ☞ - a noun clause as reference to the grammatical subject
object "it".

A **noun clause** is that contains a finite verb and functioning like a noun within a sentences.

Noun Clause with "that"

- He knows **that** I am a dentist.
- She said **that** her friend's name was Sam.
- We know **that** he doesn't eat meat.
- I can understand **that** you won't be always with me.
- I think **that** you should support your sister.
- She believed **that** I was right.

Noun Clause with "if" or "whether"

- I don't know **if** my brother is at home.
- **Whether** he's passed exam is still unknown.
- I wonder **whether** he's passed the exam or not.
- He wants to learn **whether** there is a party today or not.
- Everybody asked **if** you could help.
- I don't know **if** she wants to come with us.

Noun Clause with "wh- words"

- Please tell me **who** came to the party.
- You haven't told me **whose** car this is.
- I wonder **why** Sarah is absent.
- I can't tell you **where** he lives.
- I don't remember **when** Mary was born.
- I can't remember **how** much it costs.
- I wonder **who** lives in that place.

Noun Clauses in English

A noun clause is a dependent clause that contains a subject and a verb. It works as a noun in a sentence. It can be the subject of a sentence, an object, or a complement.

Noun Clauses as Subjects

- **That** she did not pass the exam is obvious at this point.
- **What** you have said makes her sad.
- **Whichever** you buy, there is a six-month guarantee.
- **Whoever** made this cake is a real artist.
- **Whether** we can stay in this situation is debatable.



Noun Clauses as Objects

- He had miscalculated **how** long the trip would take.
- I can do **whatever** I want.
- He cannot understand **why** she's constantly carping at him.
- My parents are really satisfied with **what** I have done.
- I'm not looking for **what** he likes.

Noun Clauses as Compliments

- Harry's problem was **that** he couldn't make a decision.
- He knows **that** I am a dentist.
- The uncertainty is **whether** he will attend or not.
- Linda was sad **that** her boyfriend betrays her.
- Jennifer seemed angry **that** he refused to help her.



