

NOUN CLAUSE



INTRODUCTION

- A clause is a group of words containing a subject and a verb. There are two types of clauses: independent clause and dependent clause.
- A Noun Clause is a group of words which contains a Subject and a Predicate of its own, and does the work of a Noun.

*He talked about **it**.* (Noun)

*He talked about **the plan**.* (Noun Phrase)

*He talked about **what he was going to do**.* (Noun Clause)

- Since a noun clause does the work of a Noun in a complex sentence, it can be:
 1. an subject of a verb.
 2. the object of a transitive verb.
 3. the indirect object
 4. the indirect object
 5. the object of preposition
 6. an apposition of noun/pronoun
 7. the subject complement.
 8. the adjective complement
 9. the object of infinitive
 10. the object of gerund
 11. the object complement



1. SUBJECT OF A VERB

- It functions as the subject of a dependent clause and does exactly what a subject does
- Look at the following examples:

It surprises me (N/P)

That he passed the exam surprises me. (NC)

The matter was a chief concern (NP)

How the country could fall into chaotic situation was a chief concern. (NC)

The reason of his leaving is a mystery (NP)

Why he left is a mystery. (NC)

- More examples:

That it would rain seemed likely.

What he said was true,

When I will return is uncertain.



2. OBJECT OF A VERB

- It functions as the object of a verb in a sentence, particularly of a transitive verb
- Examples:
 - She denied the charge .* (NP)
 - She denied that she had written the letter.* (NC)
 - I cannot describe the matter* (Noun)
 - I cannot describe what happened and how it happened* (NP)
- More examples:
 - He says that he won't go.*
 - I hoped that it was true.*
 - Tell me why you did this.*
 - Tell me where you live.*
 - No one knows who he is.*



3. DIRECT OBJECT

- It functions as the indirect object of a verb in a sentence, particularly of a verb which has two objects

- Examples:

The teacher teaches the students emergency management (NP)

The teacher teaches the students what they should do in emergency situations (NC)

She gave me assistance (NP)

She gave me what I needed (NC)

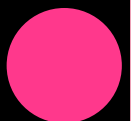
- More examples:

The father bought his son what he wanted .

IO DO

He told me what happened .

IO DO



4. INDIRECT OBJECT

- As a direct object, a noun clause comes after a transitive verb which commonly has two objects , direct and indirect.

- Consider this:

The government provides the refugees a shelter

The sentence has two objects; **the refugees** (IO) and **a shelter** (DO)

- Both the IO and IO can be expanded into noun clause.

The government provides whoever is in need a shelter

whoever is in need is a noun clause having its own S and V and functioning as an indirect object of the verb **provides**

- Examples:

Mrs. Scott assigned whoever was late extra homework.

Now he gives whatever happened a new meaning



5. THE OBJECT OF A PREPOSITION.

- It follows a preposition to complete the meaning of the prepositional phrase.
- Examples:

Sarah didn't listen to Mary's words

Sarah didn't listen to what Mary said.

He wants to learn about everything

He wants to learn about whatever is interesting.

- More examples:

Pay careful attention to what I am going to say.

There is no meaning in what you say.

There were no complaints except that the day was too hot.

Some people believe in whatever organized religion tells them.



6. APPPOSITION TO A NOUN OR PRONOUN

- Apposition/appositive means “placing near”, grammatically refers to words, phrases, and clauses that describe or explain another noun/noun phrase.
- In the following examples, the noun clauses gives more description or additional information to noun phrases before them:

That man, whoever he was, tried to steal some library books.

The problem, that the storm knocked out power, is affecting the entire town.

His belief that some day he would succeed cheered him through many disappointments.

The report that he was killed in a car accident was false.

- Compare the following sentences:

The report that they broadcasted the news was untrue.

The report that they broadcasted last week was untrue.

He made a promise that he would return all the money.

He made a promise that he couldn't keep



7. SUBJECT COMPLEMENT

- Verbs of incomplete predication usually express the idea of **being, becoming, seeming, appearing**.
- The complement usually consists of a **Noun** (called a Predicative Noun), an **Adjective** (called a Predicative Adjective), or an **Adverb** (called Predicative Adverb)
- When the Complement describes the Subject, as in the following sentences, it is called a **Subjective Complement**:

Tabby is a cat.

The earth is round.

John became a soldier.

Mr. Mehta became mayor.

The man seems tired.

All six-graders are on the school yard.



SUBJECT COMPLEMENT

- A noun clause can take the role as subjective complement as in the following examples:

My belief is that he will not come.

Her constant prayer was that the child might live.

His great fear is that he may fail.

Their request will be that they may be allowed to resign.

They look that they have just accomplished something.

Life is what we make it.

This is where I live.

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

What is in his heart is what he shows in through his deed

8. ADJECTIVE COMPLEMENT

- As an adjective complement, a noun clause describes the adjective before it. It completes the meaning of the adjective phrase

- Examples:

*He is **happy** that he is learning English.*

*We are all **afraid** that the final exam will be difficult.*

*They felt **sorry** that they lost the match.*

*The patient was **sure** that he would recover.*

*She did not seem **hopeful** that he would arrive.*

*They was **surprised** that their team won the match*

*It is **disappointing** that you said that.*



9. OBJECT OF INFINITIVE

- As an object of infinitive, a noun clause functions not as the object of the main verb, but of the infinitive.

Everyone wanted to know where they went

The investigator came to notice what they might have missed

- Examples:

He went to fix what he had done.

Please, feel free to ask whatever you want to know

We are determined to do what we want to do.



10. OBJECT OF GERUND

- A noun clause can function as the object of a gerund in a gerund phrase.

Knowing where they went is essential.

Preserving what is left in nature needs a collective effort.

- Examples:

Believing what your eyes see sometimes leads you to misunderstanding.

She is really good in deciding what should be done and estimating what it costs.



11. OBJECT COMPLEMENT

- An object complement occurs when the verb requires a complement for the object. Verbs like **call**, **appoint**, **elect**, **name**, and **make** are possible to have an object complement.

- Examples:

You may call me a dreamer. (“a dreamer” is a complement for “me”)

They appointed him a leader. (“a leader” is a complement for “him”)

You may call me whatever you wish

They appointed him what he really deserved

- Be careful!

An object complement is different from a direct object, though it the verb is similar.

She always makes me scrambled egg for breakfast (direct object)

She will make her the captain of the team (object complement)



NOUN CLAUSE MARKERS

- A noun clause is always begun with a noun clause marker, or sometimes called subordinator.
- Here are the noun clause markers used in noun clause:
 1. *that*
 2. *if, whether*
 3. **Wh-words:** *how, what, when, where, which, who, whom, whose, why*
 4. **Wh-ever words:** *however, whatever, whenever, wherever, whichever, whoever, whomever*



NOUN CLAUSE MARKERS

- The choice of the noun clause marker (see below) depends on the type of clause .

1. “that” is used for a statement:

*I know **that** Billy made a mistake*

*The truth was **that** the moving company lost all your furniture.*

2. “if” and “whether” are used for yes/no questions:

*George wonders **if** Fred knows how to cook*

*I did not know **whether** I should laugh or cry*

3. “wh-words” are used for wh-questions:

*I don't know **where** George is*

*They guessed **what** he meant*

4. “wh-ever words” are used for wh-questions:

***Whoever** broke the vase will have to pay for it.*

*George eats **whatever** is on his plate*



MORE ABOUT NOUN CLAUSE

- Except for “that”, noun clause markers cannot be omitted:
He swore that he would take vengeance
He swore he would take vengeance
- “That” cannot be omitted when it functions as a subject marker:
That they would oppose the plan was clear from the beginning.
- A subject noun clause always functions as a singular noun:
What they want is an honest answer.
Where she lived was an abandoned public building.
- Statement word order is **always** used in a noun clause, even if the main clause is a question:
Do you know what time it is? (not what time is it)
Everybody wondered where the man went (not where did the man go)
Will you explain why you behaved strangely? (not why did you behave strangely)
I do not know how I can deal with this rascal (not how can I deal with this rascal)



NOUN CLAUSE IN REPORTED SPEECH

- Reported speech refers to using a noun clause to report what someone has said.
- The most significant grammatical feature is the change in the verb form in the reported clause.

	Quoted Speech	Reported Speech
1	She said, "I study every day."	She said (that) she studied every day
2	She said, "I'm studying."	She said (that) she was studying.
3	She said, "I have studied."	She said (that) she had studied.
4	She said, "I studied last night."	She said (that) she had studied the night before.
5	She said, "I will study."	She said (that) she would study.
6	She said, "I'm going to study."	She said (that) she was going to study

NOUN CLAUSE IN REPORTED SPEECH

7	She said, "I can study."	She said (that) she could study.
8	She said, "I may study."	She said (that) she might study.
9	She said, "I might study."	She said (that) she might study.
10	She said, "I must study."	She said (that) she had to study.
11	She said, "I have to study."	She said (that) she had to study.
12	She said, "I should study."	She said (that) she should study.
13	She said, "I ought to study."	She said (that) she ought to study.
14	She said, "Study!"	She told me to study.*)
15	She said, "Do you study?"	She asked (me) if I studied.**)

*. In reported speech, an imperative sentence is changed into infinitive.

Tell is used instead of **say** as reporting verb. Note that **tell** is immediately followed by a noun/pronoun object, but **say** is not.

****. Ask** is commonly used instead of **say** in reported question. Like **tell**, **ask** is immediately followed by a noun/pronoun object.



NOTES ON REPORTED SPEECH

- If the reporting verb is in the past (e.g. **said**), the verb in the noun clause will usually also be in the past form (see the examples on the previous page)
- When the reporting verb is in simple present, present perfect or future, the noun clause verb is not changed:

*She **says**, “I study every day.” ---- She says (that) she **studies** every day.*

*She **has said**, “I study every day.” ----- She has said (that) she **studies** every day.*

*She **will say**, “I study every day.” ----- She will say (that) she **studies** every day.*

- Sometimes in spoken English, no change is made in the noun clause verb, especially when the speaker is reporting something immediately or soon after it was said:

*A: What did the teacher **just say**? I didn't hear him.*

*B: He said he **wants** us to read Chapter 6 (“**I want you to read Chapter 6**”)*

- Sometimes the present tense is retained when the reported sentence deals with a general truth:

*She said that there **are** 29 days in February if it **is** a leap year.*



CHANGE OF SITUATION

Direct Speech

this

here

now

today

yesterday

tomorrow

last week

next month

ago

Indirect Speech

that

there

then

that day

the day before / the previous day

the next day

the week before / the previous

week

the following month

before



CHANGE OF SITUATION

However, situation (time and place) does not change when:

- Reporting what someone said on the same time. Example:

Fred said, “I am going to tell her this afternoon.”

Fred said that he was going to tell her this afternoon.

This means that Fred said this on the same day you report what he said.

- Reporting same situation with no change in reference of place.

Example:

Fred said, “I love living here in this house.”

Fred said that he loved living here in this house.

This means that there is no change in reference of place between the direct and indirect speech.



REPORTING STATEMENTS

- Reporting statement follows the general rules of reporting speech.
- Statement means what someone (had) said in affirmative sentence without any notion of offer, promise, command, advice, or prohibition.
- Example:

The President said, “The GNP **rose** by ten percent **last** year, and it **is** expected to increase to twelve percent this year.”

The President said that the GNP **had risen** by ten percent the **previous** (last) year, and it **was** expected to increase to twelve percent **that** (this) year.



REPORTING QUESTIONS

- Questions words used for clause connectors when the direct speech is in “Wh” question:

The interviewer asked me, “Why do you apply for the job and what do you know about this company?”

The interviewer ask me why I applied for the job and what I knew about that (the) company.

- “If” or “whether” are used if the direct speech is a “yes/no” question:

Tom asked Kira, “Do you like the movie?”

Tom asked Kira if she liked the movie.

Mom asked me, “Are you coming with us or not?”

Mom asked me whether I was coming with them or not, or

Mom asked me whether or not I was coming with them (formal).



REPORTING REQUEST & ORDER

- When reporting request or order, we can use the structure reporting verb + object + to infinitive / to be. Verbs used include **ask**, **tell**, **order**. Examples:

She asked me, “Can you open open the window?”

She asked me to open the window.

She said, “Tell me the whole story!”

She asked me to tell the whole story.

She said, “Go and fetch some water!”

She told me to go and fetch some water.

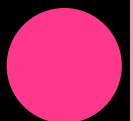
He said to the guard, “Open the door!”

He ordered the guard to open the door.

- Negative imperative uses the structure reporting verb + object + not to:

She said, “Don’t tell anyone about what I said to you!”

She asked me to not to tell anyone about what she had said to me



REPORTING PROMISES & ADVICES

- Promises are what somebody intends or is going to do, whether it is said in the past, present or future. Example:

He said, “I will study and work harder after this.”

He promised to study and work harder after that, or:

He said that he would study and work harder after that.

- Advice is what somebody suggest others to do. Verbs used include **advise**, **suggest**. Example:

He said to Anton, “I think you should see the doctor right away.”

He advised Anton to see the doctor right away.

He said, “You better come earlier tomorrow, Frank”

He advised Frank to come earlier the following day.

He said, “Let’s wait for Alex here.”

He suggested to wait for Alex there.



REPORTING EXCLAMATORY SENTENCES

- Exclamatory sentences express the state of grief, wonder or happiness. Following are the point to keep in mind before changing exclamatory sentences from direct speech into indirect speech: 1). Understand the mood of sentences, 2) Use appropriate joining clause for exclamatory sentence, 3). Follow the other rules of direct and indirect speech.

- Examples:

Alex said, “Hurrah! I have solved the problem.” (mood = joy)

Alex expressed with joy that he had solved the problem, or:

Alex said, “Oh God! I failed the exam again.” (mood = sorrow)

Alex expressed in sorrow that he had failed the exam again, or:

Alex said, “Wow! What a beautiful day.” (mood = wonder).

Alex expressed with wonder that it was a beautiful day, or:

Alex said, “Help! Please, somebody help. (mood = urgency)

Alex cried for help.



DIRECT SPEECH

He said, "Alas! I have lost another opportunity"

They said, "Hurrah! we have achieved our goal timely"

She said, "vow! what a beautiful house this is"

She said, "How lucky you are to get a good job!"

Alex said, "What a great idea it is!"

Mark said, "Hurrah! it is an easy to solve sum"

Teacher said, "what a great achievement my students have got this year!"

Old lady said, "aha! my son died early."

Teacher said, "Good! you have made it easy"

Old man said, "Pooh! how a cruel time this is"

Captain said, "Bravo! you got a catch"

INDIRECT SPEECH

He exclaimed with sorrow that he had lost another opportunity.

They exclaimed with great joy that they had achieved their goal timely.

She exclaimed with wonder that it was a beautiful house.

She expressed with great wonder that I was lucky to get a good job.

Alex expressed with wonder that it was great idea.

Mark expressed with great joy that it was an easy sum.

Teacher expressed with great joy that his students got great achievement that year.

Old lady exclaimed with great sorrow that her son died early.

Teacher exclaimed with surprise that I had made it easy.

Old man exclaimed with great contempt that it was a cruel time.

Captain applauded me that I got a good catch.

MORE EXAMPLES

The doctor said, "Don't eat too much sweet Mr. Mason."

The doctor told Mr. Mason not to eat too much sweet.

The woman said to the man, "Please be careful when you pass me the box."

The woman asked the man to be careful when he passed her the box.

Joan said, "I will work on the program in two minutes."

Joan promised to work on the program in two minutes.

The man said, "I'll sign the contract."

The man agreed to sign the contract.

The young man said to the old lady, "Let me help you with the groceries."

The young man offered to help the old lady with the groceries.

The police offices said, "Don't cross the road. It's dangerous!"

The policed warned the pedestrians not to cross the road.

