

Intermediate English Grammar

Chapter 6 **Noun Clause**

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CLAUSE

A clause is a group of words that must contain a SUBJECT and a VERB.

If a clause makes complete sense in itself, it is called **the main clause** of the sentence.

➤ We woke up.

If it's dependent on another clause to complete its meaning, it is called **the subordinate clause**.

➤ We woke up when the birds chirped.

There are 3 types of subordinate clauses:

- Nouns clauses
- Adjective clauses
- Adverb clauses

NOUN CLAUSE

- A noun clause is a subordinate clause that does the work of a noun in a sentence.
- A noun clause may be used as a subject, a predicate nominative, a direct object, an indirect object, or an object of a preposition.

NOUN CLAUSES

- Subjects
 - Objects
 - Subject complements
 - Adjective complements
- **What I prefer** is a romantic movie
 - I don't get **why you are laughing**
 - The problem is **whether to tell him** or not
 - It is important to know **that languages are necessary**

HOW DO NOUN CLAUSES BEGIN?

- QUESTION WORDS (what, where, when, who(m), whose, which, why)
- THAT
- WORDS FORM –EVER (whatever, whoever, wherever, whichever, whenever)
- WHETHER / IF

Noun clauses with QUESTION WORDS

They have statement word order, even when they occur within questions.

[Wh + subject + verb]

Examples:

- I don't know what he is doing.
- I wonder how he feels today.
- Where I put my book is a mystery

Noun clauses with THAT

We use THAT to introduce certain noun clauses, it has NO CONCRETE MEANING. It cannot be omitted.

Examples:

- That he came late, was expected by everybody
- That the exam was hard, was no surprise at all

Noun clauses with THAT

It can be omitted, when it introduces an object noun clause or a complement noun clause, especially in speaking.

Examples:

- I think (that) love is beautiful.
- He said (that) he knew the answer.

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Noun clauses with WORDS FORM –EVER

The meaning is the same as any.

For example

- Whoever studied hard will get success.
- Campaign workers use whatever helps them.

Noun clauses with WHETHER / IF

IF and WHETHER is used in YES/NO questions.

For example

Are you coming?

He wanted to know WHETHER you were coming or not.

Are you coming?

I wanted to ask you IF she was coming or not.

NOUN CLAUSE

As a subject

1. His Speech was clear.
2. What he said was clear.

Direct Object

1. I don't know his contact number.
2. I don't know how he can be reached.

Indirect Object

1. Give her the message.
2. Give whoever answers the message.

NOUN CLAUSE

Object of a preposition

1. I sent the notice to her.
2. I sent the notice to whoever was interested.

Predicate/Complement noun

1. That is my plan.
2. That is what I plan to do.

Identify the noun clause!

1. You know that the telephone uses electricity.
2. What you say into a phone creates sound waves.
3. An electric current carries the sound to whoever is listening.
4. Basically, this is how a telephone operates.
5. You can talk to whomever you like and say whatever you think.

Identify the noun clause!

6. Campaign workers use whatever helps them.
7. That telephones can be very helpful has been shown in many elections.
8. Who will win the election is what people want to know.
9. Whether a candidate is popular is a vital matter.
10. Voters usually give whoever is calling an answer.

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Thank you!

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