**Introduction**

What is a clause ?

A clause is a collection of words containing a subject that is actively doing a verb. Unlike a phrase, a clause contains the subject/verb combination. It can either be dependant (The college I go to...) or independant (He still remembers the old days).

An independent clause can exist by itself as a **complete sentence**, while a dependent clause cannot. Below we are dealing with different types of **dependant clauses**: **noun clauses, adjective clauses and adverb clauses.**

## Noun clauses

A noun clause is a dependant clause that acts as a **noun**. As such, it can be the subject or the object of the verb. It can also be the subject complement or adjective complement in the sentence

Noun clauses begin with : **question words**, **whether** or **if,** or **that**.

### Noun clauses beginning with a question word

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| question words are: ***who, what, where, when ,whose, whom, how.*** |

1. I don't know **where she lives.**
2. I couldn't hear **what he said.**
3. Do you know **when they arrive ?**
4. I don’t know **who lives there**
5. I wonder **who is at the door.**
6. I don’t know **who those men are**
7. I wonder **whose house that is.**
8. **What she said** surprised me.
9. **What they should do** is obvious.
10. The mysteryis **why he gave away all his money.**
11. It's amusing **what she did with the bird**.

**Notice that :**

* The sentence (a) is an answer to the question : « where does she live ? ». **« where she lives »** is the object of the verb « know ». In a noun clause the subject precedes the verbs, so there is no question word order (Also, **does, did**, and **do** are used in questions, but are **not used in noun clauses**)
* In sentences (d) and (e) : the word order is the same as that of the questions (Who lives there ? Who is at the door). That is because « who » is the subject of the verb in both.
* In sentence (f) : « those men » is place before the verb **« be »** , because it is the subject in the question « who are those men ? »
* In sentence (h), « what she said » is the subject of the sentence.
* Notice that in sentence (i), a noun clause takes a singular verb.
* Notice that in sentences a-g, the noun clause functions as the object of the sentence. In sentences h-i, it functions as a subject.
* Notice thay in sentence (j) the noun clause functions as subject complement, and in sentence (k), it functions as an adjective complement.
* **Question words followed by infinitives**

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| --- | --- |
| (a)I don’t know what I should do  (b) I don’t know what to do  (c)Pam can’t decide whether she should go or stay home  (d) Pam can’t decide whether to go or (to) stay home.  (e)Please tell me how I can get to the bus station  (f)Please tell me how to get to the bus station  (g) Jim told us where we could fin dit  (h) Jim told us where to find it | Question words (**when, where, how, who, whom, whose, what, which**) and **whether**, may be followed by an infinitive.  Each pair of sentences in the examples has the same meaning. Notice that the meaning expressed by the infinitive is either **should** or **can/could**. |

**Let’s practice :**

* **Change each question in parentheses to a noun clause.**

1. How old is she ? I don’t know …………………………
2. What was he talking about ? ……………………was inresting.
3. Where do you live ? Please tell me……………………..
4. Where did she go ? ………………………is none of your business.
5. When are they coming ? Do you know …………………..
6. Where does Brad live ? I’m not sure ……………………
7. Where is John ? Could you tell me……………………….. ?
8. Whose shoes are these ? I wonder…………………………..

* **Error Analysis : Correct the sentences.**
  1. Please tell me what is your name > Please tell me what **your name is.**
  2. No one seems to knw when will Maria arrive.
  3. I wonder why Bob late for class
  4. I don’t know what does that word mean
  5. I wonder deos the teacher know the answer
  6. What should theu dp about the hold in their roof is their most pressing problem.
  7. I’ll asker her would she like some coffee or not.
  8. Be sure to tell the doctor where it hurt.
  9. Why am I unhappy is something I can’t explain.
  10. I wonder does Tom know about the meeting or not.
  11. I need to know who is your teacher.
  12. I don’t understand why is the car not running properly.
  13. My young son wants to know where do the stars go in the daytime ?
* **Create sentence with the same meaning by using infinitives.**
  1. He told me when I should come – He told me when to come.
  2. The plumber told me how I could fix the leak in the sink.
  3. Please tell me where I should meet you.
  4. Don had an elaborate excuse for being late for the meeting, but Sandy didn’t know whether she should believe him or not
  5. Jim found two shirts he liked, but he had trouble deciding which one he should buy.
  6. I’ve done everything I can think of to help Andy get his life straightened out. I don’t know what else I can do.
  7. I was tongue-tied. I didn’t know what…………….
  8. A : I can’t decide …………………..to the reception.

B : How about your green suit ?

* 1. Where are you going to live when you go to the university ?

B : I’m not sure. I can’t decide whether…………………….

* 1. A : Do you know how……………………………… ?

B : no, but I’d like to learn.

* 1. A : I don’t know what………for her birthday. Got any suggestions ?

B : how about a book ?

* 1. My cousin has a dilemma. He can’t decide whether…………….or. What do you think he should do.
  2. Before you leave on your trip, read this tour book. It tells you where……….and how………….. .

### Noun clauses beginning with *Whether* or *If*

When a yes/no question is changed to a noun clause, **"whether"** or **"if"** are used to introduce the clause.

1. I don't know **whether she will come. (Will she call me ? yes/no)**
2. I don’t know **if she will come**
3. I wonder **whether he needs help. (Does he need help ? yes/no)**
4. I wonder **if he needs help**
5. I wonder **whether or not** she will come**(Will she come ? yes/no)**
6. I wonder **whether she will come or not.**
7. I wonder **if** **she will come** **or not**
8. **Whether she comes or not** is unimportant to me.
9. **Whether it’s useful matters to me.**
10. **The issue is whether she needs such costly gifts.**
11. We’re still uncertain **whether this is the best decsion to take.**

**Notice that :**

* Note that ***whether*** is more common that ***if*** in formal English, but both are commonly used in speaking.
* Notice that in sentences (h- i) above, the noun clause is in the subject position.
* In sentences (a-g), the noun clauses function as objects of the sentences
* In sentences (j-k), the noun clauses function respectively as subject complement and adjective complement.

**Exercice :**

* Complete the senteces by changing the questions to noun clauses.

Situation : you’re at the office

Example : Let me know if …

**Did you finish the sales report ? Let me know if you finished the sales report.**

*Let me know if…*

* + - Is the financial report ready
    - Will it be ready tomorrow ?
    - Does the copy machine need paper ?
    - Is someone waiting for me ?
    - Do we need anything for the meeting ?
    - Are you going to be there ?

*Please check whether…*

* + - Did they get my message ?
    - Is the copy machine working ?
    - Is there any paper left ?
    - Is this information correct ?
    - Did the fax come in ?
    - Are we going to have Monday off ?
* Begin all responses with « I wonder…. »

Examples :

A : Does she need any help ?

B : I wonder whether/if she needs any help.

A : where is he ?

B : I wonder where he is

* + - * Where is you friend
      * Should we wait for him ?
      * Should you call him
      * Where is your dictionary ?
      * Who took your dictionary ?
      * Did Rob borrow your dictionary ?
      * Who is that woman ?
      * Does she need any help ?
      * Why is the sky blue ?
      * How long does a butterfly live ?
      * What causes earthquakes ?
      * When was the first book written ?
      * Who is that man ?
      * What is he doing ?
      * Is he having trouble ?
      * Should you offer to help him ?
      * How far is it to Florida ?
      * Do we have enough time to go to Florida over vacation ?
      * Whose book is this ?
      * Does it belong to Sue ?
      * Why did dinosaurs become extinct ?
      * Is there life on other planets ?
      * How did life begin ?
      * Will people live on the moon someday ?
  1. **Noun clauses beginning with *That***

1. **Verb + *That*-Clause**

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| --- | --- |
| * 1. **I think *that Bob will come.***   2. **I think *Bob will come.*** | In sentence (a) : ***that Bob will come*** is a noun clause. It is used as the object of the verb ***think.*** The word ***that*** is usually omitted in speaking, as in sentecne (b). It is usually included in formal writing.  See the list below for the verbs commonly followed by a *that*-clause |

*Agree* that – *believe* that – *decide* that – *discover* that – *explain* that – *feel* that – *find out* that – *forget* that – *hear* that- *hope* that – *know* that- *learn* that – *notice* that – *pomise* that – *read* that – *remember* that – *say* that- *tell someone* that – *think* that – *understand* that – etc.

* Notice that the noun clause here is object of the sentence.

**2.Person + Be + Adjective + *that*-clause**

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| --- | --- |
| * 1. **Jan is happy *that Bob called*** | *That*-clauses commonly follow certain adjective, such as ***happy*** in sentence (c), when the subject refers to a person (or persons). See the list below. |

## I’m *affraid* that – I’m *amazed* that – I’m *angry* that – I’m *aware* that

## Al is *certain* that – Al is c*onfident* that – Al is *disappointed* that – Al is *glad* that

## We’re *happy* that – we’re pleased that – we’re proud that – we’re *relieved* that

## Jan is *sorry* that – Jan is *sure* that – Jan is *surprised* that – Jan is *worried* that

## Notice that the noun clause in this case functions as adjective complement.

## It + Be + Adjective + *that*-clause

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| --- | --- |
| It is clear *that Ann likes her new job* | *That*-clauses commonly folow adjectives in sentences that begin with *it + be*, as in (d). See the list below. |

## It’s *amazing* that – It’s *clear* that – It’s good that – It’s *important* that – It’s intresting that – It’s *likely* that – It’s *lucky* that – It’s nice that – It’s *obvious* that – It’s *possible* that – it’s *surprising* that – it’s *true* that – it’s *underniable* that – it’s *well known* that – it’s *wonderful* that – etc.

## Notice that here too, the noun clause functions as adjective complement.

## *That*-clause used as a subject

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| *That Ann likes her new job* is clear.*The fact (that) Ann likes her new job* is clear.It is a fact *(that) Ann likes her new job.* | It is possible but uncommon for *that*-clauses to be used as the subject of a sentence, as in (e). The word *that* is not omitted when the that-clause is used as a subject.More often, a that-clause in the subject position begins with *the fact that*, as in (f), or is intorduced by *it is a fact*, as in (g) |

## Notice that the that-clause can also function as a subject complement :

## The problem was *that the car was so expensive*

## The issue is *that we don’t have the resources*.

## Let’s practise :

## Complete the sentences with you own ideas.

## It is my belief that….the war between those two countries will end soon.

## It seems to me that…………………………………

## It is my impression that…………………………….

## It is my theory that…………………………………

## It is widely believed that ………………………….

## It is thought that ……………………………………

## It has been said that…………………………………

## It is a miracle that …………………………………

## A *that*-clause is frequently used with *the fact*. Combine the sentences using « *the fact that* » to introduce a noun clause.

## Ex : Ann was late. That didn’t surprise me.

## (The fact that Ann was late didn’t surprise me)

## Rosa didn’t come. That made me angry.

## I’m a little tired. I feel fine except for that

## Natasha didn’t pass the entrance examination. She was not admitted to the university due to that

## Many people in the world live in intolerable poverty. *That* must concern all of us.

## Philip is frequently asbsent from class. That indicates his lack of intrest in school.

## I was supposed to bring my passport to the examination for identification. I was not aware of that.

## The people of the town were given no warnnig of the approaching tonado. Due to that, there were many casualties.

## A *that*-clause may follow *be* directly. Complete the sentences with your own ideas by using *that*-clauses.

## He says he is twenty-one, but the truth is…*that he is only eighteen.*

## There are two reasons why I do not want to go out tonight. The first reason is…*that I have to study*. The second reason is*… that I do not have enough money*

## There are several reasons why I am studying English. One reason is…. Another reason is…. A third reason is…..

## I have had three problems since I came here. One problem is that…… Another problem is that …….A third problem I have had is that…….

## One advantage of owning your car is……..Another advantage is……Onr disadvantage, however, of ownig you car is……..

## Change the given sentences into a noun clause. Use *it+* any appropriate expression from the list (below in the box) (see A).

## Then, find the equivalent sentence by using a *that*-clause as the subject ( see B).

## Example : The world is round.

## A : It is a fact that the world is round

## B : That the world is round is a fact.

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| A fact - a well- known fact - true - obvious - apparent - clear - surprising - strange unfair - too bad - unfortunate - a shame - a pity |

## Tim hasn’t been able to make any friends.

## Drug abuse can ruin one’s health.

## Some women do not earn equal pay for equal work.

## The earth revolves around the sun.

## Irene, who is an excellent student, failed her entrance examination.

## Smoking can cause cancer.

## English is the principal language of the business community throughout much of the world.