

Noun Clauses

A **noun clause** is a dependent clause which takes the place of a noun in another clause or **phrase**. Like a noun, a noun clause acts as the **subject** or **object** of a verb or the object of a preposition.

Function Noun or Pronoun Noun Clause

Subject

His speech was clear.

What he said was clear.

Direct object

I don't know **his contact number**.

I don't know **how he can be contacted**.

1. Words that introduce noun clauses:

How	What	where	Which	Whoever
If	Whatever	Whichever	whoever	Whomever
That	When	Whether	who, which	Why

2. Noun clauses with Wh-words are indirect questions.

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

[Wh + subject + verb]

Examples:

Where I put my book is a mystery

What is he doing?

I don't know **what he is doing**.

How does he feel today?

I wonder **how he feels today**.

A. Rewrite the sentences using noun clauses

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. What is a clause? | Don't you know _____ |
| 2. What is the thing on the table? | I don't know _____ |
| 3. Who is that men? | I wonder _____ |
| 4. Why are you happy? | Could you tell me _____ |
| 5. Where did she go? | He doesn't know _____ |
| 6. When did you graduate? | The little girl wants to know _____ |

B. Fill in the blanks with the suitable conjunctions given (more than one alternative might be possible in some cases)

that	why	if	which	when
who	where	whose	what	how

1. The poor boy couldn't ever learn _____ murdered Lincoln.
2. I've been trying to understand _____ it is Nick who insisted that the teachers should come up with a new proposal to the next meeting in order to improve their teaching ability.
3. You'll be surprised to know _____ hair I've found on the collar of your husband.
4. _____ I really want to find out is _____ you've made this mistake on purpose.
5. You should have guessed _____ she would surely let you down even at the most unexpected occasions.
6. It's clear _____ he took the trouble to help you in the garden.
7. _____ he's telling the truth or not will never be known.

8. It is not difficult to understand _____ different people speak different languages.

9. People, at times, can be so blind that they don't even see _____ is in front of their eyes.