


Noun clauses as subjects

First of all.... What's a clause?

Clause

A clause is a group of words that includes a **subject** and a **verb**. A clause functions as an adjective, an adverb, or a noun.



Clause

a group of words that functions as one part of speech and that includes a **subject** and a **verb**.

1 a clause functioning as an adjective

My friend **who has** autism is brilliant at quizzes.

subject verb

Proof it's an adjective:
My **autistic** friend is brilliant at quizzes.

2 a clause functioning as a noun

I cannot remember **what happened** last night.

subject verb

Proof it's a noun:
I cannot remember **a thing**.

3 a clause functioning as an adverb

He put on weight **when he stopped** running.

subject verb

Proof it's an adverb:
He put on weight **quickly**.

What Is a Noun Clause?


A noun clause is a dependent clause that acts as a noun

They commonly start with:

how, that, what, whatever, when, where, whether, which, whichever, who, whoever, whom, whomever, and why.



Noun clauses can be **subjects**, **objects**, **subject complements**, or **adjective complements**.



Subject
What's painful is the hot coffee.

Object
I don't understand why she doesn't hang up.

Subject Complement
The question is whether she's going to stop.

Adjective Complement
It's frustrating that she's not paying attention.

Noun clauses as subjects

Like the movie *Inception*, you can have a clause inside a clause.



This happens when you have a noun clause as a subject

Noun clauses as subjects

For example:

Whatever you do is fine.

Noun clause

Whatever you do is fine.

Subject **verb**

Noun clauses as subjects

Examples:

What the girl was wearing amazed the public



Noun clauses as subjects

Examples:

How he looked at me gave me chills!



Noun clauses as subjects

Examples:

That the monster killed everyone in the movie was predictable



Noun clauses as subjects

Examples:

Whoever made this cake is a real artist



Reading

Joe: Unemployment is a real problem for young people these days. What's really difficult for them is getting their first job, because employers always look for people with work experience.

Lisa: That's right. And if you don't have experience, you can't get a job in the first place! It's really unfair. What students need is good work experience while they're in school so they have a better chance of getting a job after they leave.

Joe: That's a good point. How students prepare for work is so important. Who gets the best job very often depends on already having the right skills and experience.

Lisa: Yes, I agree. And where you get your first job can influence your whole future career.



We can use a noun clause at a beginning of a sentence to highlight information that we think is important.

Form	Example
Noun clause about a subject: What/Who + base form + noun/adjective	(1)
Noun clause about an object: What/How/Who/Where + noun + base form	(2) (3) (4)

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Joe: That's a good point. How students prepare for work is so important. Who gets the best job very often depends on already having the right skills and experience.

Lisa: Yes, I agree. And where you get your first job can influence your whole future career.



Practice

Put the sentences in the correct order. Begin each one with a clause.

1. need/young people/are/what/more training opportunities
2. your job application/you write/is/very important/how
3. you/ a big difference/makes/who/interviews
4. your self-confidence/you/where/work/affect/can
5. can create/ a goo impression/what/a positive attitude/is

Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wDjDBiAgnR4>

Now you do it

Explain what you would do to help reduce youth unemployment in your country or city.

What I would do first is...

What's really important is...