

## 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.