Noun clause

- Defining a noun clause
- Noun clause subordinators
- Functions of a noun clause
Noun clause

- **Noun clause subordinators:** who, whom, which, whose, what, that, when, where, why, whether, if, how, wh words + ever including whoever, whomever, whichever, whenever, wherever, whatever

- **Noun clause:** any clause beginning with one of the aforementioned subordinators
An example of a noun clause

- That some countries in the Euro zone are encountering an economic crisis is an incontrovertible fact now.
Noun clauses as the subject of the sentence

- Whoever wins the nomination will be running against a popular incumbent.
- What Tom did amazed me.
- Whether you promise to be honest with me or not does not change my view about you as a nerd.
- Why she behaves so capriciously drives me crazy.
- How you managed to make so much money in such a short time has recently occupied my mind.
Noun clauses as the object of the sentence

- No one knew whether or not interest rates would rise.
- The debater discussed why he insisted on banning the export of manufactured goods.
- His wife resented what her husband coaxed her into moving to a new neighborhood.
- The hungry man gulped down whatever the landlady offered him.
Noun clauses as objects of prepositions

- I was bored with why he was acting so strangely.
- He does not understand about whomever I am so worried.
- He did not concentrate on what he was reading.
- Please, believe in how cunningly I managed to cheat the wicked widower to sympathize with me.
Noun clauses as subject complements

• The big problem is **that we have run out of money**.
• The question was **whether he was pro or against us**.
• The most puzzling mystery of all is **why she abdicated at the height of her power**.

Noun clauses as object complements

- Call me **whatever you feel comfortable with**.
- You could term the literary movement **whatever you wish**.
Noun clauses as adjective complements

- The committee members were furious that I was half an hour late for the meeting.
- My partner was confused why I had betrayed him.

Noun clauses as apposition

- One fact, that he is incompetent, can not be disputed.
- There will be an undesirable outcome, that our results do not come out as expected.
A noun clause as a subject always takes a singular verb

1. Why the enemy soldiers are so ruthless breaks my heart.
2. What the committee members counterargue is just a load of bullshit.

“That” only begins noun clauses as subject, object, and subject complements.

1. That cigarette smoking results in malignant cancer has been empirically supported.
2. The weatherman predicted that it would probably rain the next day.

3. The main reason for the change is that all in the company would benefit.

- “That” is only omitted in noun clauses as object and adjective complement.

1. He argued (that) I would fail the exam.

2. I was certain (that) he was a man of courage.
Word order in noun clauses is the same as that in declaratives.

1. Do you remember who the first American president was?

2. When he got married is a secret to all his friends.
Whether or if?

- **Whether** can be used as object of preposition, but **if** can’t.
  1. It was the question of whether she would accept your proposal.
  2. *She haggled over if the shopkeeper would reduce the price.*

- **Whether** can be followed by to-infinitive, but **if** can’t.
  1. He hesitates whether to keep calling him back.
  2. *The newly wed couple did not agree if to have a baby.*
Whether is preferred for noun clauses functioning as subject or subject complement

1. Whether capital punishment should be replaced with sentence imprisonment is the central theme of the short story “the Bet”.

2. The central theme of the short story was whether the protagonist could survive the hunting game Zarroff had proposed to play.