

Noun Clauses

Jack left during class. I wonder what happened.



Noun clauses are **dependent** clauses that can occur in the same place as a noun or noun phrase.

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Jack left during class. I wonder **what happened.**



I wonder **what happened.**

main
clause

noun
clause

Noun clauses have a **subject** and a **verb**.

Jack left during class. I
wonder **what happened**.



There are three different types of noun clauses:
Wh – Clauses

Noun Clauses	
Main Clause	Wh-Clause
He wonders	where she is what she said why I called
Do you know	where she went when the train leaves why they did that

There are three different types of noun clauses:
Wh – Clauses, **If/Whether Clauses**

Noun Clauses	
Main Clause	If/Whether-Clause
I wonder	if she left (or not)
I don't know	if she's still here (or not)
Can you tell me	whether she arrived (or not) whether (or not) she arrived if she arrived (or not)

There are three different types of noun clauses:
Wh – Clauses, If/Whether Clauses, **That Clauses**

Noun Clauses	
Main Clause	That-Clause
I think	(that) he called
Did they doubt	(that) he would call

Wh – clauses are sometimes called indirect or embedded questions. **Wh- clauses** have different word order.

Usual **wh-word** order:

Where is she?

Where she s?

Wh-clause word order:

Do you know where  she?

Do you know where she is?

Wh – words can be followed by **infinitives** in **wh – noun clauses**.

They didn't know what they should do.

They didn't know what **to do**.

Jane can't decide whether she should go or stay home.

Jane can't decide whether **to go** or **(to) stay** home.

Please tell me how I can get to the airport.

Please tell me how **to get** to the airport.

If/Whether – clauses are also sometimes called indirect questions or embedded questions. They also use statement word order.

Do you know if you're coming with us?

Do you know if are you  coming with us?

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Or not can be added to the end of **if/whether** – **clauses** if the clauses are not very long.

I wonder whether she arrived **or not**.

I wonder if she arrived **or not**.

I don't know whether she did her homework **or not**.

I don't know if she did her homework **or not**.

Or not can also immediately follow **whether**,
but it can't follow **if**.

I wonder **whether** she arrived **or not**.

I wonder **whether** **or not** she left.

I wonder **if** she arrived **or not**.

I wonder **if** **or not** she arrived.



same
meaning

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A **question mark** is used only if the main clause is a **question**.

Main Clause	Noun Clause
He wonders I wonder I think	why I called. if she left. that he called.
Do you know Can you tell me Did they doubt	where she went? if she arrived? that he would call?

That can usually be omitted in **that clauses**.

People say **that he is a great teacher**.

People say **he is a great teacher**.

Most people agree **that the world is round**.

Most people agree **the world is round**.

I think **that most people are honest**.

I think **most people are honest**.

That cannot be omitted when it **introduces** a **noun clause** used as a subject of a sentence.

That **he is a great teacher** is a fact.
It is a fact **that** **he is a great teacher**.

Click on the correct statements.

She said that this food is delicious.

correct

Do you think that this is delicious food?

correct

I wonder what happened?

incorrect

I wonder what happened.

correct

5

6

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Click on the correct statements.

I wonder where is that new library. **incorrect**

I wonder where that new library is. **correct**

Can you tell me what happened, please? **correct**

I'm sorry that I was late for class. **correct**

Noun Clauses

The End

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