

More about noun clauses

We have seen that a noun clause is a subordinate clause which does the work of a noun in a complex sentence.

Since a noun clause does the work of a noun, it can be:

- a) The subject of a verb
- b) The object of a verb
- c) The object of a preposition
- d) The complement of a verb of incomplete predication
- e) In apposition to a noun or pronoun

The noun clause as a subject

In each of the following sentences, the noun clause is the subject of the verb.

That she should behave in such a rude manner was rather a shock.

What he said was not true.

When he will return is not known.

Why he left in a hurry is a mystery.

Whether we can start tomorrow is uncertain.

The noun clause as an object

In each of the following sentences, the noun clause is the object of the transitive verb.

She said that she would not go.

I don't know what has become of him.

She denied that she had written the letter.

Tell me how you did this?

No one knows who he is.

Ask him if he is interested in coming.

Noun clause as the object of a preposition

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In each of the following sentences, the noun clause is the object of a preposition.

Pay careful attention to what I say.

There is no point in what he says.