

# UNIT TWO

## Focus on Grammar

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### PRACTICE WITH NOUN CLAUSES

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Ask yourself the following questions about noun clauses.

#### 1. Is the clause a noun clause?

A noun clause has a subject and a verb. It is introduced by a clause marker (see item 2 that follows) and can be used in exactly the same way as a noun. Compare the following uses of nouns and noun clauses.

*As subjects*

Sam's **jokes** are very funny. (noun)

**What Sam says** is very funny. (noun clause)

*As objects*

The man told us the **address**. (noun)

The man told us **where he lived**. (noun clause)

*As objects of the preposition*

I wasn't asked about the **party**. (noun)

I wasn't asked about **who was invited**. (noun clause)

#### 2. Is the correct clause marker used?

A clause marker introduces a clause.

##### Noun clause markers

"That" indicates a fact.

"What" focuses on a fact.

"When" indicates a time.

"Where" indicates a place.

"Why" indicates a reason.

"Who" indicates a person.

"How many" indicates a quantity.

"How much" indicates an amount.

"How" indicates a manner.

"Which" indicates a choice.

"Whether" indicates two or more alternatives.

"Whose" indicates possession.

"Whom" indicates a person.

"If" indicates alternatives.

##### Examples

I knew that he had to go.

Everyone was surprised at what he brought for the picnic.

He told us when the plane would arrive.

Where they are going on their honeymoon is a secret.

She wouldn't say why he left so early.

Who sent the letter is a mystery to me.

I've lost count of how many times I've broken my glasses.

He wasn't paying attention to how much he ate.

He showed us how he was going to win the race.

I didn't know which book I was supposed to read.

I didn't know whether I should bring my bike or leave it home.

I never found out whose car was parked outside our house.

Sue didn't know to whom he was engaged.

I didn't know if I should bring my bike.

When used as clause markers, "if" and "whether" are interchangeable.

### 3. Is the clause marker missing?

Wh- words used as clause markers cannot be left out of the sentence. "That" can sometimes be left out.

(A) "That" cannot be left out if the noun clause is the subject of the sentence.

*Subject position*

**That he passed** is a miracle.

(B) "That" can be left out if the noun clause is the object of the sentence.

*Object position*

Janet noticed **that the window was broken**.

This sentence is also correct without the word "that":

Janet noticed **the window was broken**.

### 4. Is there a subject and a verb in the noun clause?

The noun clause must have a subject and a verb to be complete.

S      V

One additional feature of the car is **that it has push-button windows**.

S      V

**What was in the box** surprised everyone.

### 5. Does the noun clause complete the independent clause?

If the noun clause is used in the subject position, there must be a verb in the independent clause.

\_\_\_\_\_ S                  V

**That he might fall** worries me.

If the noun clause is used in the object position, there must be a subject and a verb in the independent clause.

S      V      \_\_\_\_\_ OBJECT \_\_\_\_\_

Sam knew **what he had to do**.

### 6. Does the verb tense in the noun clause agree with the verb tense In the Independent clause?

*Correct:* Last week Alfred asked where we were going.

"Last week" indicates that the action of asking took place in the past. The verb tense "were going" indicates that the action of going could have occurred at any point in time after Alfred asked the question.

*Correct:* Last week Alfred asked where we had gone.

"Last week" indicates that the action of asking took place in the past. The verb tense "had gone" indicates that the action of going occurred before Alfred asked the question.

*Incorrect:* Last week Alfred asked where we will go.

The verb tense "will go" (future) in the noun clause does not agree with the verb tense "asked" (past) in the independent clause.

## EXERCISE 1

Underline the noun clause. Write "S" in the space if the noun clause is the subject and "O" if the clause is the object.

**Examples**    S    That most fast-food meals are high in fat has become an increasing concern.

O    It is easy to understand why fast-food restaurants are so popular.

1. \_\_\_\_ How the buildings are constructed to keep their inhabitants cool is one of the most striking aspects of traditional Bahraini architecture.
2. \_\_\_\_ What many doctors advise is a vacation away from the hustle and bustle of urban life.
3. \_\_\_\_ When the city of Rome was actually founded is a matter of dispute among historians.
4. \_\_\_\_ Marie Curie showed that a woman can be as good a scientist as a man can be.
5. \_\_\_\_ The psychologist Abraham Maslow argued that all human beings have five levels of needs.
6. \_\_\_\_ In nonverbal communication, what gestures mean in one particular culture may be very different in another culture, thus causing misunderstandings.
7. \_\_\_\_ He mentioned that he had been in court the previous day.
8. \_\_\_\_ That old cities lose their charm in their zeal to modernize is a common perception.

### Sentences beginning with *IT*

Starting a sentence with a noun clause seems awkward to many English speakers, so they often rewrite such sentences by putting *it* at the beginning and moving the noun clause to the end.

- **That Earth is getting warmer** is certain.
- It is certain **that Earth is getting warmer**.

In addition, the verb following *it* (except *be* or any intransitive verb like *seem* or *appear*) is often written in the passive voice, especially in academic writing.

- **It is believed** that carbon dioxide is responsible for global warming.
- **It was agreed** that the meeting would be postponed until next week.
- **It has been proven** that the world's deserts are expanding.

You can also write these sentences in the active voice:

- **Many scientists believe** that carbon dioxide is responsible for global warming.
- **The participants agreed** that the meeting would be postponed until next week.
- **Measurements have proven** that the world's deserts are expanding.

## EXERCISE 2

Write each sentence so that it begins with "it" and ends with a "that clause."

1. That air temperatures are rising is significant.  
.....
2. That ocean levels are rising is undeniable.  
.....
3. That she should forget me so quickly was rather a shock.  
.....
4. That burning fossil fuels is a cause of global warming has been well documented.  
.....
5. That Jane would not do whatever needed to improve her thesis is proved to everyone.  
.....

## Tense Agreement

**Remember that the verb in the subordinate clause should always agree in tense with the verb in the main clause.**

Incorrect: He told me that he **has** a question he **wants** to ask immediately.

Correct: He told me that he **had** a question he **wanted** to ask immediately.

### EXERCISE 3

**Write "C" beside each sentence that is correct and "IC" beside each incorrect sentence. Then correct the faulty sentences.**

1. The director was told last week that Doris resides in San Diego.
2. When I saw him last night, he said that he is soon going to look for a job.
3. Mrs. Vasquez promised that she will help us with the party Saturday.
4. Did the reporter announce when would the politician declare his candidacy?
5. They apparently knew that he divorced his wife and remarried.
6. I believe that Johann had to leave next Friday.
7. Can you tell me when will she be conducting a seminar?
8. Last month, a few students asked me do I like teaching.
9. Fred believed that his friend is promoted by his employer a month or so ago.
10. As soon as Fedora heard Dick's voice on the telephone, she could tell that he has just awakened.

### Proposals

- Proposal verbs are followed by verb words in "that" clause. Proposal expressions contain that noun clauses and are used to suggest or require a certain procedure. These expressions are often used to emphasize or to state officially. The word that is sometimes implied.

|                  |                 |               |
|------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| ask (that)       | suggest .(that) | insist (that) |
| request (that)   | advise (that)   | urge (that)   |
| propose (that)   | demand (that)   | prefer (that) |
| recommend (that) | require (that)  |               |

1. Clem's advisor recommended (that) Clem *take* fewer units next term.
2. The company has suggested we *write* to them for further information.
3. The manager asks that people in the theater *not smoke*.
4. At the opening of the concert, the conductor urged that everyone *be* willing to listen to the strange contemporary music.
5. Chandra said that she preferred that a driving instructor, rather than a friend, *teach* her to drive.
6. The monitor should insist that students *not talk* during the test.
  - Use *be* plus the *past participle* for the passive voice.
7. Lu has demanded (that) he *be told* about any schedule changes.
8. At the meeting, Mr. Simon moved that all decisions *be postponed*.
9. The controller may propose that production *be delayed* a month.

- Proposal clauses, like proposal verb expressions, are used to suggest or require a particular procedure. These clauses are followed by verb words in *that* clauses.

|                             |                              |                                  |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| It is important (that)      | It is imperative (that)      | There is a requirement (that)    |
| It is essential (that)      | I believe it's urgent (that) | He saw the notice (that)         |
| It's necessary (that)       | It's preferable (that)       | There has been a motion (that)   |
| We saw a proposal (that)    | He plans to request (that)   | The rule is (that)               |
| He thinks it's vital (that) | It was suggested (that)      | A recommendation was made (that) |

1. There was a notice on the bulletin board that all students who need housing *go* to Room 742.
2. It's necessary one *make* reservations for that particular restaurant a week ahead of time.
3. He said that it was urgent he *see* the manager.
4. If she wishes to get the job, it's imperative she *get in touch* with Mr. Mohler at once.
5. There's a college regulation that applications for the fall *be filed* with the registrar before May.

#### EXERCISE 4

*Step 1: Read the following information.*

*Step 2: Write complex sentences containing subjunctive noun clauses.*

- Rewrite each question as a main clause.
- Use the information from the proposed restrictions to write a subjunctive noun clause.
- Combine the two clauses to make a new complex sentence.

*The first one has been done for you as an example.*

#### Background Information

A three-year drought has caused a serious water shortage in the fictitious country of Sunnyland. As a result, Sunnyland's water department has recommended restrictions on water use.

### Sunnyland County Water Department *Sunnyland County, Texas*

Due to the recent drought in our region, the County of Sunnyland is imposing restrictions on water use, effective immediately. Violators will be subject to penalties.

#### Restrictions on Water Use

- a. All citizens must conserve water wherever possible.
- b. Every individual must decrease water use.
- c. Every family must reduce its water use by 40 percent.
- d. In the cities, everyone must limit showers to 5 minutes.
- e. In the countryside, farmers must cut their water use by 25 percent.
- f. Every farmer should install a drip irrigation system.
- g. People in the suburbs must not use water to wash cars, sidewalks, or streets.

1. What does the water department recommend?

*The water department recommends that **all** citizens Conserve water wherever possible.*

2. What will the water department demand?

.....

3. What is necessary?

.....

4. What does the water department propose for city dwellers?

.....

5. What is required of farmers?

.....

6. What is suggested for farmers?

.....

7. What does the water department urge for people living in suburban areas?

.....

## EXERCISE 5

**Underline the incorrect sentences and write them correctly.**

I can't recall or not I've told you this story. You've often said that I'm the world's most absentminded person. You've even suggested that I carried photos to help me remember my friends! Well, a month ago I thought I'd caught a glimpse of a friend at a supermarket. I ran after him, complaining loudly that he has been neglecting me.

A smiling stranger turned round and asked I would forgive him. Still apologetic about not contacting me all these years, he insisted that I joined him for coffee so that we could catch up on old times. To my delight I realized that I am finding someone even more absent-minded than me.

## EXERCISE 6

### PART ONE

*DIRECTIONS: Circle the letter of the correct answer to complete each sentence.*

1. Science has not yet made a machine that can learn ----- a young child can learn in a few days—how to tie a pair of shoes.  
(A) where (C) that  
(B) whether (D) what
2. ----- the young woman desired to marry didn't matter, for she had to marry someone that her parents had selected.  
(A) Whomever (C) Whoever was  
(B) Whatever (D) Whoever was that
3. ----- the ozone layer has already thinned to a dangerous point is a serious problem.  
(A) What (C) It is a fact that  
(B) That (D) Scientists know that
4. It is clear ----- the city government will have to raise taxes if the police force is going to be strengthened.  
(A) what (C) whatever  
(B) that (D) whether
5. After the fire had been put out, the firefighters recommended that people ----- homes without an alarm device.  
(A) do not buy (C) not buy  
(B) not to buy (D) did not buy

### PART TWO

*DIRECTIONS: Each sentence has four underlined words or phrases. The four underlined parts of the sentence are marked A, B, C, and D. Circle the letter of the one underlined word or phrase that is NOT CORRECT.*

6. That spurred the great explorations of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries was the  
A  
desire to find a more convenient route to the spice supplies of the Far East.  
B C D
7. Market researchers find out exactly how many people live in a certain area and what are their  
A B C D  
spending habits.  
D
8. Urban sprawl occurred wherever the population expanded rapidly and where were there no  
A B C D  
comprehensive plans for esthetics and function.
9. Eric Erickson's theory of development claims who individuals encounter a series of conflicts  
A B  
that need to be resolved for healthy personality development.  
C D
10. The police Chief indicated that it was vital that a team was formed to investigate the charges that had been made by  
A B C D  
some of the citizens in the community.

1. When rates were raised in 1985, postal service officials predicted they would make further rate increases unnecessary for at least three years.
  - (A) they would make further rate increases unnecessary
  - (B) they would mean that further rate increases would not be needed
  - (C) that it will not be necessary for further rate increases
  - (D) that the increase would make further rate increases unnecessary
  - (E) further rate increases will not be needed
  
2. The rise in the Commerce Department's index of leading economic indicators suggest that the economy should continue its expansion into the coming months, but that the mixed performance of the index's individual components indicates that economic growth will proceed at a more moderate pace than in the first quarter of this year.
  - (A) suggest that the economy should continue its expansion into the coming months, but that
  - (B) suggest that the economy is to continue expansion in the coming months but
  - (C) suggests that the economy will continue its expanding in the coming months, but that
  - (D) suggests that the economy is continuing to expand into the coming months, but that
  - (E) suggests that the economy will continue to expand in the coming months, but
  
3. Until quite recently, American presidents lived in a world in which the public and private realms of their lives were largely separate, and the press cooperated in maintaining the distinction, and Americans judged national leaders without receiving, or expecting, intimate information about them.
  - (A) and the press cooperated in maintaining the distinction, and
  - (B) where the press cooperated in maintaining the distinction, and where
  - (C) for the press cooperated to maintain the distinction and
  - (D) the press cooperated to maintain the distinction, for
  - (E) in which the press cooperated in maintaining the distinction, and in which
  
4. That the new managing editor rose from the publication's "soft" news sections to a leadership position is more of a landmark in the industry than her being a woman.
  - (A) her being a woman
  - (B) being a woman is
  - (C) her womanhood
  - (D) that she was a woman
  - (E) that she is a woman
  
5. The odds are about 4 to 1 against surviving a takeover offer, and many business consultants therefore advise that a company's first line of defense in eluding offers like these is to even refuse to take calls from likely corporate raiders.
  - (A) that a company's first line of defense in eluding offers like these is to even refuse
  - (B) that a company's first line of defense in eluding such offers be to refuse even
  - (C) a company defending itself against offers of this kind that, as a first line of defense, they should even refuse
  - (D) companies which are defending themselves against such an offer that, as a first line of defense, they should even refuse
  - (E) that the first line of defense for a company who is eluding offers like these is the refusal even.