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<http://www.bpi.edu/ourpages/auto/2011/9/16/58978302/Clauses.pdf>.

A review of:  
A noun clause as a:  
Subject  
Direct object  
Indirect object  
Subject complement  
Prepositional complement

### **Correct use of noun clauses**

A noun clause can be put in many places in a sentence. We will look at the 5 most common ones. A noun clause can be a subject, a subject complement, a direct object, an indirect object a prepositional complement. A noun clause, as the name says, always works as a noun in the sentence, so as a person, animal or object. The noun clause, just like all clauses, will have a subject and a predicate. Noun clauses are usually introduced by the words (relative pronouns): that, which, who, whoever, whomever, whose, what, whatever, how, when, where, whether and why (Dr. M. Dickerson: 4). Noun clauses are always dependent.

#### **Noun clause as a subject:**

Like the movie inception, you can have a clause inside a clause. This happens when you have a noun clause as a subject.

For example: Whatever you do is fine.

‘whatever you do’ is the subject, and ‘is’ is the predicate. ‘You’ is also a subject and ‘do’ is the predicate. So ‘whatever you do’ is a noun clause. And ‘Whatever you do is fine’ is also a clause.

#### **Noun clause as a subject complement:**

A subject complement is usually put after the verb, and changes the subject.

For example: Music is the thing that makes me relax.

Our subject complement is 'the thing that makes me relax'. 'the thing' is my subject and 'makes' is my predicate. In my main sentence 'music' is my subject and 'is' is my predicate.

### **Noun clause as a direct object**

You can use a noun clause in place of a direct object. The object usually comes after your verb.

For example: He said that he was excited. The subject of our main clause is 'he' and the predicate is 'said'. The subject of our noun clause is 'he' and the predicate is 'was'. If the word that introduces the noun clause, so in this case 'that', isn't the subject of the clause, it can be removed. So you can say: He said he was excited.

### **A noun clause as an indirect object**

Besides a direct object, a sentence can also have an indirect object. This is usually the person the verb talks about. A noun clause can be used here too.

For Example: I will give the prize to whomever arrives first at the finish line. In this sentence our main subject and predicate are 'I will'. The subject and verb of our noun clause are 'whomever' and 'arrives'. Our noun clause is 'whomever arrives first at the finish line.' It takes on the form of subject+verb+complement. When the words who or whoever are the object in the sentence they are always written with an m, so whom and whomever. In this sentence the subject and the relative pronoun are the same.

### **A noun clause as a prepositional complement**

Finally a noun clause can be a prepositional complement. This means that the noun clause is put after a preposition, such as about, to, under, for, etc.

For example: I will use the book for what I want. In this sentence our preposition is 'for'. 'I will' make up the subject and predicate of our main clause, and 'I want' are the subject and verb of our noun clause. The word 'what' introduces it.

*See these ASK documents for additional information:*

*Clause structures:*

*Adverb clauses:*

*Adjective clauses:*