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UNIT 4. READING FOR PLEASURE

TOP NOTCH 3 – REVIEW AND EXTRA PRACTICE

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NOUN CLAUSES

12-1 INTRODUCTION

<p>independent clause (a) Sue lives in Tokyo.</p> <p>independent clause (b) Where does Sue live?</p>	<p>A clause is a group of words containing a subject and a verb.* An <i>independent clause</i> (or <i>main clause</i>) is a complete sentence. It contains the main subject and verb of a sentence. Examples (a) and (b) are complete sentences. (a) is a statement, and (b) is a question.</p>
<p>dependent clause (c) where Sue lives</p>	<p>A <i>dependent clause</i> (or <i>subordinate clause</i>) is not a complete sentence. It must be connected to an independent clause. Example (c) is a dependent clause.</p>
<p>indep. cl. dependent cl. (d) I know <i>where Sue lives</i>.</p>	<p>Example (d) is a complete sentence. It has an independent clause with the main subject (<i>I</i>) and verb (<i>know</i>) of the sentence. <i>Where Sue lives</i> is a dependent clause connected to an independent clause. <i>Where Sue lives</i> is called a <i>noun clause</i>.</p>
<p>noun phrase (e) <i>His story</i> was interesting.</p> <p>noun clause (f) <i>What he said</i> was interesting.</p>	<p>A <i>noun phrase</i> is used as a subject or an object. A <i>noun clause</i> is used as a subject or an object. In other words, a noun clause is used in the same ways as a noun phrase. In (e): <i>His story</i> is a noun phrase. It is used as the subject of the sentence. In (f): <i>What he said</i> is a noun clause. It is used as the subject of the sentence. The noun clause has its own subject (<i>he</i>) and verb (<i>said</i>).</p>
<p>noun phrase (g) I heard <i>his story</i>.</p> <p>noun clause (h) I heard <i>what he said</i>.</p>	<p>In (g): <i>his story</i> is a noun phrase. It is used as the object of the verb <i>heard</i>. In (h): <i>what he said</i> is a noun clause. It is used as the object of the verb <i>heard</i>.</p>
<p>noun phrase (i) I listened to <i>his story</i>.</p> <p>noun clause (j) I listened to <i>what he said</i>.</p>	<p>In (i): <i>his story</i> is a noun phrase. It is used as the object of the preposition <i>to</i>. In (j): <i>what he said</i> is a noun clause. It is used as the object of the preposition <i>to</i>.</p>

*A *phrase* is a group of words that does NOT contain a subject and a verb.

NOUN CLAUSES BEGINNING WITH THAT

12-5 NOUN CLAUSES BEGINNING WITH *THAT*

STATEMENT	NOUN CLAUSE	
<p>He is a good actor.</p> <p>The world is round.</p>	<p>(a) I think <i>that he is a good actor</i>.</p> <p>(b) I think <i>he is a good actor</i>.</p> <p>(c) We know (<i>that</i>) <i>the world is round</i>.</p>	<p>In (a): <i>that he is a good actor</i> is a noun clause. It is used as the object of the verb <i>think</i>.</p> <p>The word <i>that</i>, when it introduces a noun clause, has no meaning in itself. It simply marks the beginning of the clause. Frequently it is omitted, as in (b), especially in speaking. (If used in speaking, it is unstressed.)</p>
<p>She doesn't understand spoken English.</p> <p>The world is round.</p>	<p>(d) <i>That she doesn't understand spoken English</i> is obvious.</p> <p>(e) <i>It</i> is obvious (<i>that</i>) <i>she doesn't understand spoken English</i>.</p> <p>(f) <i>That the world is round</i> is a fact.</p> <p>(g) <i>It</i> is a fact <i>that the world is round</i>.</p>	<p>In (d): The noun clause (<i>That she doesn't understand spoken English</i>) is the subject of the sentence. The word <i>that</i> is not omitted when it introduces a noun clause used as the subject of a sentence, as in (d) and (f).</p> <p>More commonly, the word <i>it</i> functions as the subject and the noun clause is placed at the end of the sentence, as in (e) and (g).</p>

NOUN CLAUSES BEGINNING WITH THAT

GRAMMAR

Noun clauses

A noun clause is a group of words that functions as a noun. A noun clause can be introduced by that and often functions as the direct object of a “mental activity” verb.

I didn't know **that he wrote that book**.
I think **that Junot Diaz's novels are fantastic**.
She forgot **that Andrew Morton wrote biographies**.

When a noun clause functions as a direct object, that may be omitted.

I didn't know **he wrote that book**.

In short answers, use so to replace a noun clause after the verbs think, believe, guess, and hope.

A: Does Steven King have a new book out?
B: I think **so**. / I believe **so**. / I guess **so**. / I hope **so**.
(so = that Steven King has a new book out)

Other clauses with that often follow certain predicate adjectives. The word that can be omitted.

We're both **disappointed** (**that**) **his new book isn't very good**.
Were you **surprised** (**that**) **the ending was sad**?

Noun clauses and other clauses with that often follow these verbs and adjectives.

Verbs		Adjectives
agree	hear	disappointed
think	see	happy
believe	understand	sad
feel	hope	sorry
suppose	forget	sure
doubt	remember	surprised
guess	know	

Be careful!

I don't think **so**. / I don't believe **so**.
BUT I guess **not**. / I hope **not**.
NOT I don't guess **so**. / I don't hope **so**.

GRAMMAR BOOSTER > p. 126

- More verbs and adjectives that can be followed by clauses with that

Verbs that can be followed by clauses with that

The following verbs often have noun clauses as their direct objects. Notice that each verb expresses a kind of “mental activity.” In each case, it is optional to include that.

She	agrees thinks believes feels	(that) the students should work harder.	I	assume suppose doubt guess	(that) they made reservations.
We	hear see understand hope	(that) the government has a new plan.	He	forgot noticed realized remembered knew	(that) the stores weren't open.
They	decided discovered dreamed hoped learned	(that) everyone could pass the test.			

Adjectives that can be followed by clauses with that

Use a clause with that after a predicate adjective of emotion to further explain its meaning.

I'm	afraid angry	(that) we'll have to leave early.	He's	sorry unhappy	(that) the flight was cancelled.
We're	worried ashamed	(that) we won't be on time to the event.	She's	surprised disappointed	(that) the news spread so fast.
They're	happy sad	(that) the teacher is leaving.			

NOUN CLAUSES: EMBEDDED QUESTIONS (1)

12-2 NOUN CLAUSES BEGINNING WITH A QUESTION WORD

<p>QUESTION</p> <p>Where does she live? What did he say? When do they arrive?</p>	<p>NOUN CLAUSE</p> <p>(a) I don't know <i>where she lives</i>. (b) I couldn't hear <i>what he said</i>. (c) Do you know <i>when they arrive</i>?</p>	<p>In (a): <i>where she lives</i> is the object of the verb <i>know</i>. In a noun clause, the subject precedes the verb. Do not use question word order in a noun clause.</p> <p>Notice: <i>does, did, and do</i> are used in questions, but not in noun clauses. See Appendix Unit B for more information about question words and question forms.</p>
<p><u>S</u> <u>V</u></p> <p>Who lives there? What happened? Who is at the door?</p>	<p><u>S</u> <u>V</u></p> <p>(d) I don't know <i>who lives there</i>. (e) Please tell me <i>what happened</i>. (f) I wonder <i>who is at the door</i>.</p>	<p>In (d): The word order is the same in both the question and the noun clause because <i>who</i> is the subject in both.</p>
<p><u>V</u> <u>S</u></p> <p>Who is she? Who are those men? Whose house is that?</p>	<p><u>S</u> <u>V</u></p> <p>(g) I don't know <i>who she is</i>. (h) I don't know <i>who those men are</i>. (i) I wonder <i>whose house that is</i>.</p>	<p>In (g): <i>she</i> is the subject of the question, so it is placed in front of the verb <i>be</i> in the noun clause.*</p>
<p>What did she say? What should they do?</p>	<p>(j) <i>What she said</i> surprised me. (k) <i>What they should do</i> is obvious.</p>	<p>In (j): <i>What she said</i> is the subject of the sentence. Notice in (k): A noun clause subject takes a singular verb (e.g., <i>is</i>).</p>

*COMPARE: *Who is at the door?* = *who* is the subject of the question.

Who are those men? = *those men* is the subject of the question, so *be* is plural.

NOUN CLAUSES: EMBEDDED QUESTIONS (2)

12-3 NOUN CLAUSES BEGINNING WITH *WHETHER* OR *IF*

YES/NO QUESTION	NOUN CLAUSE	
Will she come?	(a) I don't know <i>whether she will come</i> . I don't know <i>if she will come</i> .	When a yes/no question is changed to a noun clause, <i>whether</i> or <i>if</i> is used to introduce the clause. (Note: <i>Whether</i> is more acceptable in formal English, but <i>if</i> is quite commonly used, especially in speaking.)
Does he need help?	(b) I wonder <i>whether he needs help</i> . I wonder <i>if he needs help</i> .	
	(c) I wonder <i>whether or not</i> she will come. (d) I wonder <i>whether</i> she will come <i>or not</i> . (e) I wonder <i>if</i> she will come <i>or not</i> .	In (c), (d), and (e): Notice the patterns when <i>or not</i> is used.
	(f) <i>Whether she comes or not</i> is unimportant to me.	In (f): Notice that the noun clause is in the subject position.

Embedded questions: usage and common errors

You can use an embedded question to ask for information more politely.

Are we late? → Can you tell me **if we're late**?

What time is it? → Can you tell me **what time it is**?

Why isn't it working? → Could you explain **why it isn't working**?

Where's the bathroom? → Do you know **where the bathroom is**?

How do I get to the bank? → Would you mind telling me **how I get to the bank**?

Be careful! Do not use the question form in embedded questions.

Do you know **why she won't read** the newspaper?

Don't say: Do you know **why won't she** read the newspaper?

Can you tell me **if this bus runs** express?

Don't say: Can you tell me **does this bus run** express?

Embedded questions: punctuation

Sentences with embedded questions are punctuated according to the meaning of the whole sentence.

If an embedded question is in a sentence, use a period.

I don't know (something). → I don't know **who she is**.

If an embedded question is in a question, use a question mark.

Can you tell me (something)? → Can you tell me **who she is**?

Phrases that are often followed by embedded questions

I don't know ...

Do you know ... ?

I'd like to know ...

Can you tell me ... ?

Let me know ...

Can you remember ... ?

I can't remember ...

Could you explain ... ?

Let's ask ...

Would you mind telling me ... ?

I wonder ...

I'm not sure ...

NOUN CLAUSES: EMBEDDED QUESTIONS WITH INFINITIVES

Embedded questions with infinitives

In embedded questions, an infinitive can be used to express possibility (can or could) or advice (should).

You can use an infinitive after the question word. The following sentences have the same meaning.

I don't know **where I can** get that magazine. = I don't know **where to get** that magazine.

I'm not sure **when I should** call them. = I'm not sure **when to call** them.

She wanted to know **which train she should** take. = She wanted to know **which train to take**.

You can also use an infinitive after whether.

I can't decide **whether I should** read this book next. = I can't decide **whether to read** this book next.

Be careful! Don't use an infinitive after if. Use whether instead.

I can't decide **if I should** read this book next. = I can't decide **whether to read** this book next.

Don't say: I can't decide ~~if to read~~ this book next.

NOUN CLAUSES AS SUBJECTS AND OBJECTS

Noun clauses as subjects and objects

A noun clause can function as either a subject or an object in a sentence.

As a subject

What he wrote inspired many people.

Where the story takes place is fascinating.

How she became a writer is an interesting story.

That she wrote the novel in six months is amazing.

Who wrote the article isn't clear.

As an object

I like **what he wrote**.

I want to know **where the story takes place**.

They are inspired by **how she became a writer**.

I heard **that she wrote the novel in six months**.

I wonder **who wrote the article**.



PRACTICE

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Exercise 2

Exercise 3

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