

# Complex Sentence: Noun Clauses

## 5<sup>th</sup> Lecture

## The Complex Sentence: Noun Clauses

**A noun clause** is a subordinate clause. It has a subject and a verb, and can be used like a noun, either as a subject or an object.

### **1. As a Subject**

e.g. His discovery was important.

noun

(**his discovery** is a noun, it is the subject of the sentence)

e.g. What he discovered was important.

noun clause

(**what he discovered** is a noun clause. It is the subject of the sentence. It has a subject **he** and a verb **discovered**)

## 2. As an Object

e.g. *People believed his discovery.*

noun

(*his discovery* is a noun. It is the object of the verb *believed*)

e.g. *People believed what he discovered.*

noun clause

(*what he discovered* is a noun clause. It is the object of the verb '*believed*')

Noun clauses are introduced by the following words:

*When, Where, Why, How, Who/Whom, What, which, whose, whether, if, that.*

## A. Noun Clauses beginning with a question word

1. *What did he discover?*

*I don't know what he discovered.*

2. *When did he discover it?*

*I'm not sure when he discovered it.*

3. *Where did he discover it?*

*It is not known where he discovered it.*

4. *How did he discover it?*

*I'm not certain how he discovered it.*

5. *Who is Atchison?*

*I don't know who he is.*

6. *Whose discovery is that?*

*It is not certain whose discovery that is.*

7. *What did he discover?*

*What he discovered is not certain.*

## **B. Noun Clauses beginning with *whether or if***

1. *Will it work?*

*He wonders whether it will work.*

*He wonders if it will work.*

2. *Did they believe him?*

*I don't know whether they believed him.*

*I don't know if they believed him.*

## **C. Noun Clauses beginning with *that***

1. *The world is round.*

*We know that the world is round.*

2. *The world is round.*

*We know the world is round.*

(the word ***that*** is omitted in spoken English)

Complete each sentence with a properly formed noun clause:

1. John asked me \_\_\_\_\_.  
 where was his wallet  
 where his wallet was
2. I couldn't tell him \_\_\_\_\_.  
 where was I  
 where I was
3. I don't know \_\_\_\_\_.  
 how many children he has  
 how many children does he have
4. \_\_\_\_\_ is not important.  
 How close we are  
 How close are we
5. \_\_\_\_\_ was sad.  
 What did she say  
 What she said
6. We are not responsible for \_\_\_\_\_.  
 what our children say  
 what do our children say
7. Is it true \_\_\_\_\_ about you?  
 what did he say  
 what he said
8. I'm not going to tell you \_\_\_\_\_.  
 what should you do  
 what you should do
9. I wonder if \_\_\_\_\_ from Germany.  
 is he  
 he is
10. The teacher told us \_\_\_\_\_ our finished exams.  
 where we should leave  
 where should we leave

1. John asked me \_\_\_\_\_.  
 where was his wallet  
 where his wallet was
2. I couldn't tell him \_\_\_\_\_.  
 where was I  
 where I was
3. I don't know \_\_\_\_\_.  
 how many children he has  
 how many children does he have
4. \_\_\_\_\_ is not important.  
 How close we are  
 How close are we
5. \_\_\_\_\_ was sad.  
 What did she say  
 What she said
6. We are not responsible for \_\_\_\_\_.  
 what our children say  
 what do our children say
7. Is it true \_\_\_\_\_ about you?  
 what did he say  
 what he said
8. I'm not going to tell you \_\_\_\_\_.  
 what should you do  
 what you should do
9. I wonder if \_\_\_\_\_ from Germany.  
 is he  
 he is
10. The teacher told us \_\_\_\_\_ our finished exams.  
 where we should leave  
 where should we leave