

Noun Clause – A subordinate clause that is used as a noun. Noun clauses have the same five forms as gerunds.

TYPE	NOUNS	NOUN CLAUSES
SUBJECT	Her action was brave.	What she did was brave.
Predicate Nominative	The winner will be the fastest runner .	The winner will be whoever runs fastest .
Direct Object	She learned the answer .	She learned what the answer was .
Indirect Object	We tell each caller the sales prices.	We tell whoever calls the sale prices.
Object of the Preposition	He checks the ID cards of visitors .	He checks the ID cards of whoever visits .

Introductory Words for Noun Clauses

That	How	Whichever	What
Which	Who	Whatever	Why
Whoever	When	Whether	Whom
Where	Whose	whomever	

(Be careful, words such as “that,” “whom,” “who,” “whose,” and “which” also function in adjectival clauses.)

Change each of the following sentences so that they include a noun clause.

1. Dominic’s fear of cats seems irrational.
- 1.
2. The valedictorian will be the student with the best student.
- 2.
3. Justin discovered the secret to life.
- 3.