

NOUN CLAUSES

Noun Clauses (also called Nominal Clauses) are a type of subordinate/dependent clause which act like nouns. These clauses can be used to form or act as one of the following:

The Subject

EX:

What he saw flew across the night sky.

What he saw was strange.

The Object*

EX:

John believed **that it was a Unidentified Flying Object (or UFO)**.

John believes **that the UFO was flying**.

The Subject Complement

EX:

This is **what he believed to be a UFO**.

The Object Complement

EX:

It was **that he saw the UFO**.

*Noun Clauses can also be the object of the preposition (in a prepositional phrase).

EX:

John saw it around **what he thought was a star**.

Like other subordinate/dependent clauses, these clauses contain a noun, a verb, and a subordinator (which prevents the clause from having a sense of completion).

THREE TYPES OF NOUN CLAUSES

THAT Clauses

THAT Clauses begin with the word THAT. THAT is a subordinator.

EX:

1. Appear after the main/independent clause's verb

EX:

John hopes **that he can prove the UFO's existence**.

2. Appear after certain adjectives, particularly those which describe emotion.

EX:

John was astonished **that the UFO suddenly disappeared**.

3. Appear after certain nouns, such as claim, belief, hypothesis, theory, assertion, opinion, statement, etc. Typically, these situations involve indirect quotations or indirect speech.

EX:

Dr. Fairchild, an expert on UFOs, believes **that John might have seen a UFO**.

4. Appear at the beginning of a sentence

EX:

That John might have seen a UFO is the subject of a media frenzy.

IF/WHETHER Clauses

IF/WHETHER Clauses begin with the the word IF or WHETHER. IF and WHETHER are subordinators.

EX:

John wanted to know **whether the UFO was an alien ship or just a flash of light**.

John wants to know **if the UFO might have been real or a hoax by pranksters**.

QUESTION Clauses

QUESTION Clauses begin with the any interrogative subordinators:

WHAT

WHO

WHEN

WHY

HOW

HOW MANY

HOW MUCH

HOW LONG

WHERE

EX:

What John saw is the subject of a huge debate in the scientific community.

People are interested in knowing **what John saw was real**.