

Noun Clauses – Complete Lesson

1. What is a Noun Clause?

A **noun clause** is a group of words with a subject and a verb that acts as a noun in a sentence. It can be the subject, object, or complement of a verb or preposition.

Common words that begin noun clauses include: **that, if, whether, who, what, when, where, why, how.**

2. Structure

wh-word / that / if / whether + subject + verb (+ object)

3. Examples

As an object: I don't know where he lives.

As a subject: What she said was interesting.

After a preposition: We talked about how the story ended.

After verbs like think / believe / know: She believes that ghosts are real.

Important: Word order in a noun clause is the same as in a normal statement.

- We don't know where does he live.
- We don't know where he lives.

4. Practice – Find the Noun Clause

1. I don't understand why he left so early.
2. What she told me was unbelievable.
3. We're not sure if they will come.
4. He didn't say who the man was.

5. Reading: The Mystery of the Old Lighthouse

Late at night, people in a small seaside village often see a light shining from the old lighthouse — even though it has been empty for years. Some villagers believe that a ghost lives there, but no one knows who the ghost might be.

Last summer, a group of students decided to find out why the light appears every night. They waited until midnight and climbed the hill to the lighthouse. When they entered, they discovered that the light was coming from an old lantern.

Later, they learned that the lighthouse keeper used to turn on the lantern to guide ships, and perhaps the wind still moves it. No one can explain exactly how the lantern keeps shining, but the mystery continues to attract many visitors.

6. Marker Sentences from the Reading

- No one knows who the ghost might be.
- They decided to find out why the light appears every night.
- They discovered that the light was coming from an old lantern.
- No one can explain how the lantern keeps shining.

7. Speaking Practice

1. Do you know why people like mysteries?
2. Can you explain how detectives solve crimes?
3. Tell your partner what the most interesting mystery you've heard is.

8. Wrap-up

Review what a noun clause is. Ask students to make two sentences using noun clauses. Examples:

- I don't know why people believe in ghosts.
- What happens in the dark house is a mystery.