

Grammar Focus: Linking Ideas with That Clauses

1. What Is a That Clause?

A that clause is a dependent clause that begins with 'that' and gives more information about an idea. It usually answers the question 'What?'

Example:

Experts say **that children watch too much TV.**

(What do experts say? → that children watch too much TV.)

2. Common Structures with That Clauses

A) Verb + That Clause

Structure: Subject + verb + (that) + clause

Examples:

- Experts believe **that TV affects children's behavior.**
- Research shows **that reading improves test scores.**

B) It + Be + Adjective + That Clause

Structure: It + be + adjective + (that) + clause

Examples:

- It's clear **that TV is central to our lives.**
- It's disturbing **that children spend hours online.**

C) Noun + Be + That Clause

Structure: Noun + be + (that) + clause

Examples:

- The problem is **that students don't read enough.**
- The fact is **that TV reduces reading time.**

D) What + Clause + Be + That Clause

Structure: What + clause + be + (that) + clause

Examples:

- What's interesting is **that most people multitask while watching TV.**
- What's important is **that parents set limits.**

3. Why Do We Use That Clauses?

We use that clauses to express opinions, report research, emphasize important ideas, connect related ideas, and make sentences more formal and academic.

4. Formal vs Informal Use

Formal (writing): Experts claim **that** TV influences behavior.

Informal (speaking): Experts claim TV influences behavior.

5. Common Expressions

- The thing is (that)...
- The problem is (that)...
- My opinion is (that)...
- What I'm saying is (that)...