

THE NOUN CLAUSE

Recognize a noun clause when you find one.

Any clause—**main** (or *independent*), **subordinate** (or *dependent*), **adjective** (or *relative*)—that functions as a **noun** is a noun clause.

Consider this sentence:

Our plates and cups are always tacky with residue because of Yolanda's inefficient **method** of washing dishes.

Method = noun.

If we replace **method** with a **clause**, we have a noun clause:

Our plates and cups are always tacky with residue because of **how inefficiently Yolanda washes dishes**.

How inefficiently Yolanda washes dishes = noun clause.

Know the functions that noun clauses serve.

Since a **noun** can function as a **subject**, **subject complement**, or **object**, a noun clause can do the same.

Read these examples:

You rock! is the affirmation Benjamin says to the mirror every morning before he leaves the house.

You rock! = subject.

Dad's favorite advice is "**Do not sweat the small stuff**."

Do not sweat the small stuff = subject complement.

During the family meeting, Harry presented **what he discovered in Mona's incriminating diary**.

***What he discovered in Mona's incriminating diary* = direct object.**

Grandma always saves one turkey leg for **whoever gave her the best Christmas present**.

***Whoever gave her the best Christmas present* = indirect object.**

For the long drive to Atlanta, Darren wants to ride with **whoever has the best audio system**.

***Whoever has the best audio system* = object of the preposition.**

