

Lesson Plan: Noun clauses

Time: 60 minutes

Level: Advanced (C1-C2)

Objectives:

By the end of the lesson, students will be able to:

- Identify noun clauses in written and spoken English
- Use noun clauses in complex sentences with a variety of introductory words (that, if/whether, question words)
- Apply noun clauses in formal and informal contexts (e.g., conversation, academic writing)

Target Language:

- **Form:** [Introductory word] + Subject + Verb (e.g., *I know **that she passed the test.***)
- **Functions:** Reporting, expressing opinions, giving information, indirect questions

Materials:

- Handouts or slides with sentence prompts
- Sample reading/listening passage
- Whiteboard or digital board

Lesson Outline (60–90 min)

1. Warm-up (10 mins)

Activity: *Quote Matching*

- Give students famous quotes or headlines with noun clauses removed.
- Students guess the missing part (e.g., "The truth is _____." → "that we don't know anything").

Purpose: Activates schema and introduces real-world use of noun clauses.

2. Grammar Presentation (15–20 mins)

Method: Guided discovery or direct instruction

Use examples to illustrate three main types:

- **That-clauses:** *I believe that honesty is important.*
- **If/whether-clauses:** *She asked whether we had enough time.*
- **Wh-clauses (embedded questions):** *Tell me what you think about the proposal.*

Visual Aid/Boardwork:

Intro Word	Example
that	I think that he is right.
if/whether	She didn't know if he was coming.
wh-words	Explain why you left.

Tip: Emphasize word order — noun clauses follow **SVO**, not the question form.

3. Controlled Practice (15 mins)

Activity: *Noun Clause Completion*

- Provide sentences missing the noun clause.

Examples:

- "He didn't realize _____."

- "Can you explain _____?"

Students complete them in pairs, then share.

Follow-up: Correct together and clarify any doubts about structure.

4. Communicative Practice (15–20 mins)

Activity: *Interview and Report Back*

- Students interview a partner using indirect questions (e.g., "Can you tell me where you grew up?").
- They then report back to the class: "My partner told me that she grew up in Paris."

Purpose: Functional use of noun clauses in real communication.

5. Listening or Reading Task (Optional: 10–15 mins)

Activity: *Identify the Noun Clauses*

- Use a short TED Talk excerpt or article.
- Students underline or highlight all noun clauses.

Extension: Discuss how noun clauses add detail or nuance to the speaker's message.

6. Writing Task (10–15 mins)

Activity: *Write an Opinion Paragraph*

Prompt: *Do you think technology has improved our lives? Why or why not?*

- Require students to use **at least 3 noun clauses**.

Peer Review: In pairs, students check each other's writing for accuracy and variety of noun clauses.

7. Wrap-up and Homework (5 mins)

- Recap key forms and functions of noun clauses.
- Homework: Write 5 complex sentences using noun clauses in different positions (subject, object, complement).