Complex Sentence

with a noun clause

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A complex sentence:
A sentence that consists of independent clause (main clause) and dependent clause (subordinate clause)

There are three kinds of dependent clauses:
1. Adjective Clause (Relative Clause)
2. Adverbial Clause
3. Noun Clause

This unit focuses on complex sentences with noun clauses.
A noun clause is:

A dependent clause that functions as a noun. Therefore, it plays the role of a noun in the sentence, i.e. it can be a subject or an object.

- What the newspaper reported was incorrect.
  
  subject   verb

- People once believed that the world was flat.
  
  verb   subject
A noun clause can also follow certain adjectives and nouns.

- We were happy that the semester was over.
- Who first challenged the belief that the world was flat?

There are three kinds of noun clauses:

1. *that* clauses, which begin with the word *that*
2. *if*/*whether* clauses, which begin with the words *whether* or *if*
3. Question clauses, which begin with a question word, such as *who, what, where, when, or how*
**That clauses**
- formed from statements
- introduced by subordinator *that*
- *that* can be omitted

| The Russian president and his wife told the press (that) they were enjoying their visit |

**Subjunctive noun clauses**
- verb in base from
- occur after verbs and adjectives of urgency, advisability, necessity, and desirability

| The president of the United States suggested that Russia open its doors to U.S. business. |
Question clauses
- formed from *wh*- questions; *wh-* words are the subordinators: *who, where, which, how, etc.*
- use SV statement word order
- *do, does, did* disappear

| Do you know who the interpreter for the Russian leader was? |
| The reporter asked which companies planned to do business in Russia. |

If/ Whether clauses
- formed from *yes/ no* questions
- introduced by subordinator *if or whether.*
  - *Whether* is more formal than *if.*
- *or not* may be added
- use SV statement word order
- *do, does, did* disappear

| The question is whether (or not) U.S. and European companies understand the Russian business environment (or not). |
| No one knows if the experiment will succeed (or not). |
PRACTICE 1 - *That* Clauses

Complete the following sentences using *that* clause.

1. Scientists believe _________________________
2. The idea ___________________ is nonsense.
3. Environmentalists warn ____________________
4. Our teacher was very proud ________________
5. The latest research revealed ________________
PRACTICE 2 - Question Clauses

Change each of the following questions into a noun clause. Create your own main clause.

Example: When did you last perform in Fog City?
‡ I began my interview by asking when you last performed in Fog City.

1. When and where will the concert take place?
2. How many songs have you recorded?
3. Which company produces your CDs?
4. How many Grammys do you have?
5. How many years have you been together as a group?
PRACTICE 3 - *If/ Whether* Clauses

Change each of the following questions into an if/whether clause. Create your own main clause.

Example: Is acupuncture a risky medical procedure?
‡ I would like to know whether or not acupuncture is a risky medical procedure.

1. Can acupuncture strengthen the immune system?
2. Are the needles made of stainless steel or of some other metal?
3. Do the needles hurt when they are inserted?
4. Does acupuncture use the body’s energy to promote healing?
5. Can we study acupuncture in Indonesia?
V WRITING PRACTICE

Write complex sentences containing a noun clause as a response to the following pictures