

EXERCISE 9: Each of the following sentences contains more than one clause. Underline the subjects once and the verbs twice. Circle the connectors. Put boxes around the noun clauses. Then indicate if the sentences are correct (C) or incorrect (I).

- C 1. When the season starts is determined by the weather.
- I 2. The manual how the device should be built.
- ___ 3. The schedule indicated if the teams would be playing in the final game.
- ___ 4. He refused to enter a plea could not be determined by the lawyer.
- ___ 5. Talked about where we should go for lunch.
- ___ 6. Why the condition of the patient deteriorated so rapidly it was not explained.
- ___ 7. Whether or not the new office would be built was to be determined at the meeting.
- ___ 8. That the professor has not yet decided when the paper is due.
- ___ 9. The contract will be awarded is the question to be answered at the meeting.
- ___ 10. He always talked with whomever he pleased and did whatever he wanted.

SKILL 10: USE NOUN CLAUSE CONNECTOR/SUBJECTS CORRECTLY

In Skill 9 we saw that noun clause connectors were used to introduce noun subject clauses or noun object clauses. In Skill 10 we will see that in some cases a noun clause connector is not just a connector; a noun clause connector can also be the subject of the clause at the same time.

I do not know what is in the box.
 NOUN CLAUSE AS OBJECT OF VERB

We are concerned about who will do the work.
 NOUN CLAUSE AS OBJECT OF PREPOSITION



Whoever is coming to the party must bring a gift.
 NOUN CLAUSE AS SUBJECT

In the first example there are two clauses: *I do not know* and *what is in the box*. These two clauses are joined by the connector *what*. It is important to understand that in this sentence the word *what* serves two functions. It is both the subject of the verb *is* and the connector that joins the two clauses.

In the second example there are two clauses. In the first clause *we* is the subject of *are*. In the second clause *who* is the subject of *will do*. *Who* also serves as the connector that joins the two clauses. The noun clause *who will do the work* functions as the object of the preposition *about*.

In the last example there are also two clauses: *whoever* is the subject of the verb *is coming*, and the noun clause *whoever is coming to the party* is the subject of *must bring*. The word *whoever* serves two functions in the sentence: It is the subject of the verb *is coming*, and it is the connector that joins the two clauses.

The following example shows how this sentence pattern could be tested in structure questions on the TOEFL test.

Example from the Paper and Computer TOEFL® Tests  

_____ was on television made me angry.

(A) It
 (B) The story
 (C) What
 (D) When

In this example you should notice immediately that there are two verbs, *was* and *made*, and each of those verbs needs a subject. Answers (A) and (B) are incorrect because *it* and *the story* cannot be the subject for both *was* and *made* at the same time. Answer (D) is incorrect because *when* is not a subject. In answer (C) *what* serves as both the subject of the verb *was* and the connector that joins the two clauses together; the noun clause *what was on television* is the subject of the verb *made*. Answer (C) is therefore the best answer.

The following chart lists the noun clause connector/subjects and the sentence patterns used with them:

NOUN CLAUSE CONNECTOR/SUBJECTS		
<i>who</i> <i>whoever</i>	<i>what</i> <i>whatever</i>	<i>which</i> <i>whichever</i>
NOUN CLAUSE AS OBJECT		
S V	(noun connector/subject)	V
<i>I know</i>	<i>what</i>	<i>happened.</i>
NOUN CLAUSE AS SUBJECT		
(noun connector/subject)	V	V
<i>What</i>	<i>happened</i>	<i>was great.</i>

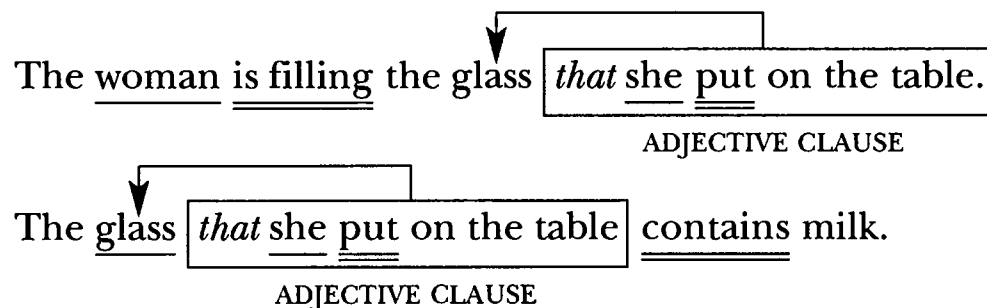
EXERCISE 10: Each of the following sentences contains more than one clause. Underline the subjects once and the verbs twice. Circle the connectors. Put boxes around the noun clauses. Then indicate if the sentences are correct (C) or incorrect (I).

- C 1. The game show contestant was able to respond to whatever was asked.
- I 2. You should find out which the best physics department.
- _____ 3. The employee was unhappy about what was added to his job description.
- _____ 4. Whoever wants to take the desert tour during spring break signing up at the office.
- _____ 5. The motorist was unable to discover who he had struck his car.

- _____ 6. The voters should elect whichever of the candidates seems best to them.
- _____ 7. It was difficult to distinguish between what was on sale and what was merely on display.
- _____ 8. You should buy whatever the cheapest and most durable.
- _____ 9. What was written in the letter angered him beyond belief.
- _____ 10. You can spend your time with whoever important to you.

SKILL 11: USE ADJECTIVE CLAUSE CONNECTORS CORRECTLY

An adjective clause is a clause that describes a noun. Because the clause is an adjective, it is positioned directly after the noun that it describes.



In the first example there are two clauses: *woman* is the subject of the verb *is filling*, and *she* is the subject of the verb *put*. *That* is the adjective clause connector that joins these two clauses, and the adjective clause *that she put on the table* describes the noun *glass*.

In the second example there are also two clauses: *glass* is the subject of the verb *contains*, and *she* is the subject of the verb *put*. In this sentence also, *that* is the adjective clause connector that joins these two clauses, and the adjective clause *that she put on the table* describes the noun *glass*.

The following example shows how these sentence patterns could be tested in structure questions on the TOEFL test.

Example from the Paper and Computer TOEFL® Tests



The gift _____ selected for the bride was rather expensive.

- (A) because
- (B) was
- (C) since
- (D) which we

In this example you should notice quickly that there are two clauses: *gift* is the subject of the verb *was*, and the verb *selected* needs a subject. Because there are two clauses, a connector is also needed. Answers (A) and (C) have connectors, but there are no subjects, so these answers are not correct. Answer (B) changes *selected* into a passive verb; in this case the sentence would have one subject and two verbs, so answer (B) is not correct. The best answer to this question is answer (D). The correct sentence should say: *The gift which we selected for the bride was rather expensive*. In this sentence *gift* is the subject of the verb *was*, *we* is the subject of the verb *selected*, and the connector *which* joins these two clauses.