



Noun Clauses

Their functions



Nouns

- This category includes...
 - common nouns,
 - proper nouns,
 - pronouns.



Functions of nouns

- Nouns function as...
 - subjects,
 - objects,
 - complements.



Nouns as subjects

- Nouns function as subjects in subject-verb combinations.
 - My **car** is in the shop.
 - **Abraham Lincoln** was elected President of the United States twice.
 - **That** happened many years ago.



Nouns as objects

- Nouns function as objects of...
 - ...verbs (I will pass that **test**.)
 - ...prepositions (We listened carefully to **her**.)
 - ...infinitives (They plan to visit **Paris**.)
 - ...gerunds (Changing the **law** is seldom easy.)
 - ...participles (Knowing **that**, we chose to stay.)
 - ...verbals (They want us to buy the **cake**.)



Nouns as complements

- Nouns function as complements...
 - ...of subjects (She is a **nurse**.)
 - ...of objects of verbs (They call him **Harry**.)



Noun clauses as objects of verbs (SVO)



DEP and its function...(1a)

- Do you know where they went?
 - DEP?
 - Observation?
 - DEP Function?
 - DEP identity?

DEP and its function...(1b)

- *Do you know where they went?*
 - **DEP:** *where they went*
 - **observation:** The action of the verb *Do... know* points directly at the DEP.
 - **DEP function:** object of the verb *Do...know*
 - **DEP identity:** noun clause



DEP and its function...(1c)

- *He explained, in English, that Bobby had the opportunity to make a big change. (Grisham, 2010, p. 241)*
- DEP?
 - Observation?
 - DEP Function?
 - DEP identity?

DEP and its function...(1d)

- *He explained, in English, that Bobby had the opportunity to make a big change.* (Grisham, 2010, p. 241)
 - **DEP:** *that Bobby had the opportunity to make a big change*
 - **observation:** The action of the verb *explained* points directly at the DEP.
 - **DEP function:** object of the verb *explained*
 - **DEP identity:** noun clause



DEP and its function...(1e)

- *I now ask if that has happened.*
(Grisham, 2010, p. 57)
- DEP?
 - Observation?
 - DEP Function?
 - DEP identity?

DEP and its function...(1f)

- *I now ask if that has happened.* (Grisham, 2010, p. 57)
 - **DEP:** *if that has happened*
 - **observation:** The action of the verb *ask* points directly at the DEP.
 - **DEP function:** object of the verb *ask*
 - **DEP identity:** noun clause

Subordinators:

I know...	I don't know...
... what happened.	... if we can finish
... where they live.	... whether she will like it.
... who knows that.	... why they did it.
... that they know.	
... whom they called.	
... how they know.	
... when they found out.	
... which course I need.	



What do you notice?

- *And you believe he's telling the truth?*
(Grisham, 2010, p. 197)
- *Mr. Hogan said that the jury would learn that the Duffy marriage had not been a happy one.* (Grisham, 2010, p. 65)
- *Theo did not know if he'd been followed, or if the stairwell was one of Omar's smoking places.* (Grisham, 2010, p. 194)



Noun clauses as complements of subjects



DEP and its function...(2a)

- *That is not where they live.*
 - DEP?
 - Observation?
 - DEP Function?
 - DEP identity?



DEP and its function...(2b)

- *That is not where they live.*
 - **DEP:** *where they live*
 - **observation:** DEP identifies the subject *That*.
 - **DEP function:** complement of the subject *That*
 - **DEP identity:** noun clause



DEP and its function...(2c)

- *That's what the bank said.* (Grisham, 2010, p. 211)
 - DEP?
 - Observation?
 - DEP Function?
 - DEP identity?

DEP and its function...(2d)

- *That's what the bank said.* (Grisham, 2010, p. 211).
 - **DEP:** *what the bank said*
 - **observation:** DEP identifies the subject *That*.
 - **DEP function:** complement of the subject *That*
 - **DEP identity:** noun clause



Noun clauses as objects of infinitives



DEP and its function...(4a)

- *Everyone wanted to know where they went.*
 - DEP?
 - Observation?
 - DEP Function?
 - DEP identity?

DEP and its function...(4b)

- *Everyone wanted to know where they went.*
 - **DEP:** *where they went*
 - **observation:** The action of the infinitive *to know* points directly at the DEP.
 - **DEP function:** object of the infinitive *to know*
 - **DEP identity:** noun clause

DEP and its function...(4c)

- *I'd like to know what this witness allegedly saw.* (Grisham, 2010, p. 196)
- DEP?
 - Observation?
 - DEP Function?
 - DEP identity?

DEP and its function...(4d)

- *I'd like to know what this witness allegedly saw.* (Grisham, 2010, p. 196)
 - **DEP:** *what this witness allegedly saw*
 - **Observation:** The action of the infinitive *to know* points directly at the DEP.
 - **DEP Function:** object of the infinitive *to know*
 - **DEP identity:** noun clause

DEP and its function...(4e)

- *Duffy refused to admit that he had been desperate.* (Grisham, 2010, p. 213)
- DEP?
 - Observation?
 - DEP Function?
 - DEP identity?

DEP and its function...(4f)

- *Duffy refused to admit that he had been desperate.* (Grisham, 2010, p. 213)
 - **DEP:** *that he had been desperate*
 - **Observation:** The action of the infinitive *to admit* points directly at the DEP.
 - **DEP Function:** object of the infinitive *to admit*
 - **DEP identity:** noun clause



Noun clauses as objects of prepositions



DEP and its function...(3a)

- *They talked about where they went.*
 - DEP?
 - Observation?
 - DEP Function?
 - DEP identity?

DEP and its function...(3b)

- *They talked about where they went.*
 - **DEP:** *where they went*
 - **observation:** DEP combines with the preposition *about* to form one unit.
 - **DEP function:** object of the preposition *about*
 - **DEP identity:** noun clause

DEP and its function...(3c)

- *He pointed to a spot in some trees in a dogleg on the sixth fairway, and spoke rapidly about what he had seen. (Grisham, 2010, p. 123)*
- DEP?
 - Observation?
 - DEP Function?
 - DEP identity?

DEP and its function...(3d)

- *He pointed to a spot in some trees in a dogleg on the sixth fairway, and spoke rapidly about what he had seen.* (Grisham, 2010, p. 123)
 - **DEP:** *what he had seen*
 - **observation:** DEP combines with the preposition *about* to form one unit.
 - **DEP function:** object of the preposition *about*
 - **DEP identity:** noun clause



Noun clauses as objects of gerunds



DEP and its function...(5a)

- *Knowing where they went is essential.*
 - DEP?
 - Observation?
 - DEP Function?
 - DEP identity?



DEP and its function...(5b)

- *Knowing where they went is essential.*
 - **DEP:** *where they went*
 - **observation:** The action of the gerund *Knowing* points directly at the DEP.
 - **DEP function:** object of the gerund *Knowing*
 - **DEP identity:** noun clause



DEP and its function...(6)

- *Knowing where they went is essential.*
 - DEP?
 - Observation?
 - DEP Function?
 - DEP identity?

DEP and its function...(6)

- *Knowing where they went is essential.*
 - **DEP:** *where they went*
 - **observation:** The action of the gerund *Knowing* points directly at the DEP.
 - **DEP function:** object of the gerund *Knowing*
 - **DEP identity:** noun clause

References

- Grisham, J. (2010). *Theodore Boone: Kid lawyer*. New York: Puffin Books.



Overview

- Nouns (common nouns, proper nouns, pronouns) fulfill grammatical functions in clauses.
- Noun clauses function in sentences as nouns do.
- So, as nouns fulfill grammatical functions in sentences, noun clauses do too.
- **Reminder:** In terms of dependent clauses, function always reveals identity.