

Noun clause

- Defining a noun clause
- Noun clause subordinators
- Functions of a noun clause

Noun clause

- **Noun clause subordinators:** who, whom, which, whose, what, that, when, where, why, whether, if, how, wh words + ever including whoever, whomever, whichever, whenever, wherever, whatever
- **Noun clause:** any clause beginning with one of the aforementioned subordinators

An example of a noun clause

- That some countries in the Euro zone are encountering an economic crisis is an incontrovertible fact now.

Subordinator

Noun clause

Main clause

Noun clauses as the subject of the sentence

- Whoever wins the nomination will be running against a popular incumbent.
- What Tom did amazed me.
- Whether you promise to be honest with me or not does not change my view about you as a nerd.
- Why she behaves so capriciously drives me crazy.
- How you managed to make so much money in such a short time has recently occupied my mind.

Noun clauses as the object of the sentence

- No one knew whether or not interest rates would rise.
- The debater discussed why he insisted on banning the export of manufactured goods.
- His wife resented what her husband coaxed her into moving to a new neighborhood.
- The hungry man gulped down whatever the landlady offered him.

Noun clauses as objects of prepositions

- I was bored with why he was acting so strangely.
- He does not understand about whomever I am so worried.
- He did not concentrate on what he was reading.
- Please, believe in how cunningly I managed to cheat the wicked widower to sympathize with me.

Noun clauses as subject complements

- The big problem is that we have run out of money.
- The question was whether he was pro or against us.
- The most puzzling mystery of all is why she abdicated at the height of her power.

Noun clauses as object complements

- Call me whatever you feel comfortable with.
- You could term the literary movement whatever you wish.

Noun clauses as adjective complements

- ❖ The committee members were furious that I was half an hour late for the meeting.
- ❖ My partner was confused why I had betrayed him.

Noun clauses as apposition

- One fact, that he is incompetent, can not be disputed.
- There will be an undesirable outcome, that our results do not come out as expected.

Some notes

- A noun clause as a subject always takes a singular verb
 1. Why the enemy soldiers are so ruthless breaks my heart.
 2. What the committee members counterargue is just a load of bullshit.
- “That” only begins noun clauses as **subject**, **object**, and **subject complements**.
 1. **That** cigarette smoking results in malignant cancer has been empirically supported.

2. The weatherman predicted **that** it would probably rain the next day.

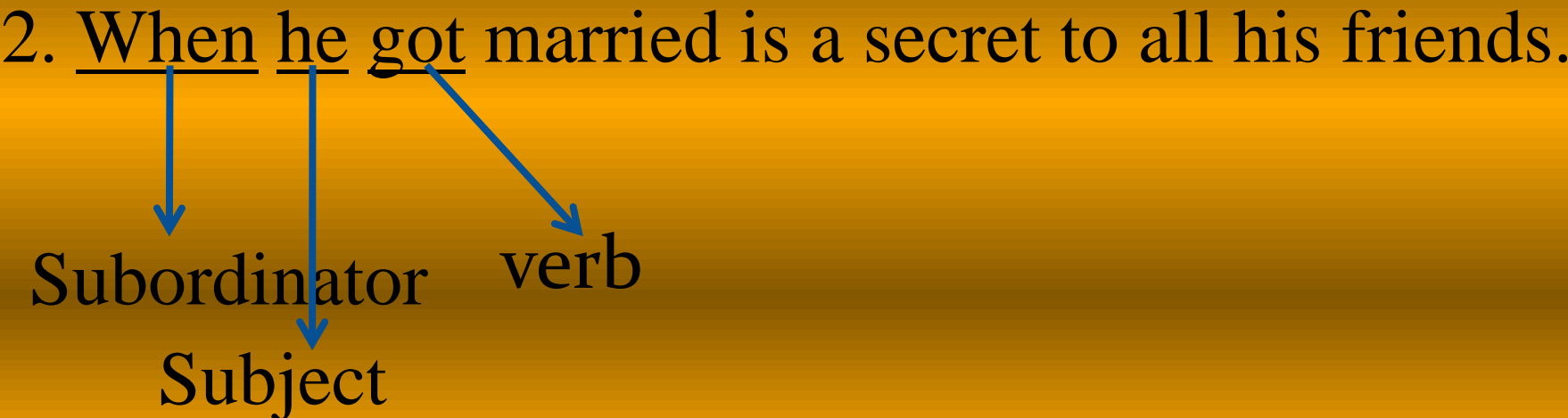
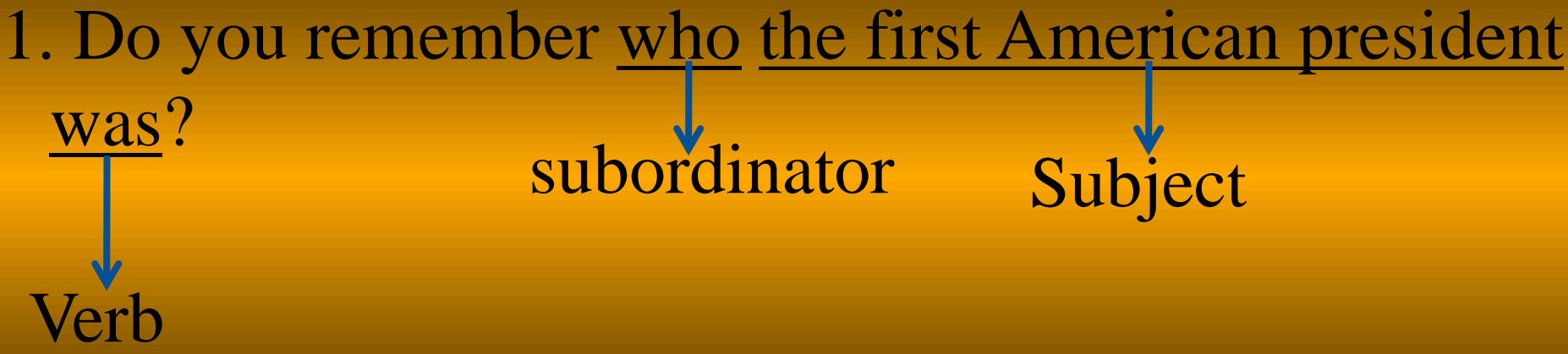
3. The main reason for the change is **that** all in the company would benefit.

□ “That” is only omitted in noun clauses as **object** and **adjective complement**.

1. He argued **(that)** I would fail the exam.

2. I was certain **(that)** he was a man of courage.

□ Word order in noun clauses is the same as that in declaratives



□ Whether or if?

- **Whether** can be used as object of preposition, but **if** can't.
 1. It was the question **of** whether she would accept your proposal.
 2. *She haggled **over** ~~if the shopkeeper would reduce the price.~~
- Whether can be followed by to-infinitive, but if can't.
 1. He hesitates whether **to keep** calling him back.
 2. *The newly wed couple did not agree ~~if to have a baby.~~

▪ Whether is preferred for noun clauses functioning as subject or subject complement

1. **Whether** capital punishment should be replaced with sentence imprisonment is the central theme of the short story “the Bet”.
2. The central theme of the short story was **whether** the protagonist could survive the hunting game Zarroff had proposed to play.