

**2nd unit, 27 February 2024**

Nominal clauses



**You**

Give a definition for a nominal clause



**ChatGPT**

A nominal clause, also known as a noun clause, is a type of dependent clause that functions as a noun within a sentence. It can serve various roles typically fulfilled by nouns, such as subjects, objects, or complements. Nominal clauses often begin with a subordinating conjunction (e.g., that, whether, if) or a question word (e.g., who, what, where), and they can contain a subject and a verb. These clauses are essential for adding complexity and depth to sentences, allowing for more intricate expressions of ideas and relationships within a sentence structure.



intricate = sophisticated, subtle

A nominal clause cannot assume the role of a main clause, i.e. it cannot stand just by itself.



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Variants of nominal clauses:

**1. Nominal “-ing” clause (using a gerund)**

Wearing a uniform can help people feel part of the team. (as subject)

I don't enjoy wearing formal clothes. (as object)

I'm excited about buying some new outfits. (after a preposition)

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Variants of nominal clauses:

**2. Nominal “that” clause**

That she won again this year is not surprising. (as subject, this use is rare)

I explained that she would have to buy a new outfit. (as object)

I'm worried that I won't fit in. (after an adjective)

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Variants of nominal clauses:

**3. Nominal “question” clause (using an interrogative pronoun)**

What you wear is entirely up to you. (as subject)

My appearance certainly affects how I feel. (as object)

Fiona felt embarrassed because of how she looked. (after a preposition)

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Variants of nominal clauses:

**4. Nominal “to + infinitive” clause**

To spend so much money on clothes is totally unnecessary. (as subject)

It's a good idea to wear smart clothes for an interview. (as object)

I was surprised to learn about the dress code. (after an adjective)

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Variants of nominal clauses:

5. Nominal clauses as phrases

The fact that you got a high grade shows how hard you worked.  
(extended nominal “that” clause as subject)

The experience of travelling on the Orient Express was one she would never forget.  
(extended nominal “-ing” clause as subject)

but

Travelling on the Orient Express was an experience she would never forget.  
(regular nominal “-ing” clause as subject)