

There are four types of Noun Clauses (Complements):

Two non-**finite** (no **tense**) clause types, governed by predicate:

- The **Infinitive** clause (*for-to*), which **marks** its subject with *for* and its verb with *to*, both often deleted by rule. Subjects may also be deleted (and inferred) by rule. Infinitives can be Direct Object (Noun) Clauses ...

1. Bill wants (**for Bill**) **to** win the election. *Bill* is subject of both *want* and *win*.
2. Bill wants (?**for**) Mike **to** win the election. *Mike* is object of *want* and subject of *win*
3. Bill promised (***for**) **Mary to** fix her car. *Bill* is subject of both *promise* and *fix*

... or they can be Subject Clauses (though they're rarely comfortable and are frequently Extraposed)

4. ***(For)** Bill **to** win the election would be a surprise. → **It would be a surprise for Bill to...**
5. **(For INDEF)** To achieve world peace is one thing. → **It is one thing to...**

- The **Gerund** clause (POSS-*ing*), which **suffixes** subject with possessive, the enclitic {-Z₂}, and its verb with -ing, often confused with other uses of -*ing*. Subjects may also be deleted by rule, and are frequently indefinite. There is a common ACC-*ing* variant that skips the possessive. Gerund clauses are more likely to be Subject clauses than infinitives are....

6. **INDEF** Playing loud music is unpopular here.
7. **Bill's** playing loud music has become an issue for his neighbors.
8. **(His)** playing loud music has become an issue for Bill's neighbors. (*His*) = *his* **can** be deleted.
... but they can be Object Clauses, too (with the right predicate).
9. Bill enjoys **(Bill('s))** playing the piano.
10. Bill enjoys **Mary('s))** playing the piano.

... and two **finite** (inflected with **tense**) clause types:

- The **that-Clause**, which is marked by initial *that* and is otherwise a normal tensed clause. *That* is usually deleted unless it's necessary to avoid ambiguity. *That*-clauses are much more likely to be object clauses than subject clauses; they're usually quite awkward and are usually extraposed.

11. Bill thinks **(that)** Mary plays the piano.
12. I know **(that)** Mary doesn't play the piano.
13. ***(That)** he move immediately is their second demand. ***(That)** = *that* **can't** be deleted.
14. ***(That)** no Lady Mondegreen ever existed is irrelevant. → **It is irrelevant that ...**

- The **Embedded Question**, which is marked by initial *wh*-word and is tensed like a main clause question, but does not invert its Subject-Verb order. Embedded questions are not as common as the other types because they are mostly restricted to predicates that refer to questions. These predicates are more likely to use such questions as object clauses than as subject clauses.

15. Bill asked **whether/if** Mary plays the piano. **Whether** is the *wh*-word for a yes/no question.
16. I don't know **why** Bill cares.
17. **Whether** Lady Mondegreen ever existed is irrelevant. → **It is irrelevant whether ...**
18. **Whether** *Mondegreen* is eponymous or not is a tricky question → **It is a tricky question whether ...**