

Lesson 24 Completer clauses

To the teacher,

Confusions:

- Forgetting to put a subject in the "that" clause. "I think is good idea..."
- Inverting the X-Word and the Subject in completer clauses that start with **why**, **what**, **where** because they have learned to invert when these are question words.
"I don't know where is he."
- Understanding that the "if" in completer clauses (whether) has a different meaning than the "if" in conditional clauses.
I wonder if my student understands. vs If he understands, he'll pass the class.
- Some verbs, especially *said* and *told* open up the topic of reported speech. I avoid that at this level.

Frequency

A fast and dirty search at COCA show that these are the verbs that come in front of "that" completer clauses the most frequently. The possibilities with "that" omitted are almost endless.

say	101000
think	87000
know	65000
believe	45000
suggest	29000
find	26800
feel	21000
realize	20000
argue	18000
note	17000
hope	15000
hear	8000
imagine	4000
expect	3800
ask	3000
recommend	2700
tell (me)	1600

SUMMARY OF TRADITIONAL VS X-WORD TERMINOLOGY

X-Word terminology in blue

traditionally, a string of words with a SUBJECT verb+ (info?)

Clause In this book a clause without a CW is a TRUNK; a clause with a CW is called a clause.

independent
clause



TRUNK

dependent or
subordinate clauses

Shifters



adverbial clauses

Describers



adjective (relative) clauses (defining/restrictive)

Completers



noun clauses

CW: clause word (who, that, because, if) shows us how the clause relates to (depends on) the TRUNK

In this book "clause" means dependent clause.

Completer clauses are traditionally called **noun clauses**.