

Lesson 25: The Completer Clause

Review:

- A **clause** is a group of words that has a subject, a predicate, and a clause word.
- A **shifter clause** (adverb clause) gives information about time, reason, condition, or the opposite of expectation. **Shifter clauses** can go in front of the trunk, or at the end of the trunk.
- A **describer clause** (adjective clause) gives more information about one word in the trunk. **Describer clauses** go right after the word that they are describing.

In this lesson, let's look at a third kind of clause, the **completer clause**. I call this kind of clause a **completer clause** because it always comes at the end of the trunk, and its purpose is to complete the idea of the trunk. That's pretty easy to remember. A **completer clause** completes.

Some books call **completer clauses** "noun clauses"

Let's look at some of these **completer clauses**. Notice where they are in the sentence and notice the job that they do.

Example 1: **I think** that you should study harder

Example 2: **I believe** that it is time to go

You can see that **completer clauses** are actually like a big OBJECT because they answer the question "What?"

What do I think? You should study harder.

I think that you should study harder.

Look at the verbs in the different examples above. Have you noticed that the **completer clauses** usually come after verbs of reporting or thinking?

Common verbs for "that" clauses:

say	believe	feel	realize	know
think	suggest	argue	hope	find



THAT CLAUSES

Example: CW
He said that he was sorry.
He said he was sorry

Example: CW
I think that I'll stay home tonight.
I think I'll stay home tonight

★ **That** is the most common clause word in completer clauses.
 ★ **That** can be used for both people and things.
 ★ **That** is often omitted

Leaving out "that"

All four sentences are correct. In the second sentence of each example, the word **that** has been omitted.

Remember that when we omit the word **that**, it *looks like* we have **two trunks**. But if we want two trunks together we must join them with a **comma** plus a word like **and, but, so, or**. This is not the case here. So we must remember that the clause word has been omitted.

OTHER COMPLETER CLAUSE WORDS: WHY, WHAT, WHERE, IF

Common verbs followed by why, what, where, and if completer clauses

know see tell ask wonder

Word order: Some words in English lead double lives. **why, what, and where** are used to ask questions AND they are used to introduce clauses. Don't forget that the word order is different.

In questions→ ?W X S
 Why is **Jack** late?

In clauses→ CW S X
 I don't know why **Jack** is late. ~~I don't know why is Jack late.~~

- I don't know why Jack is late.



- Do you know what the problem is?
- Excuse me. Do you know where the cafeteria is?

IF

The word "if" is used in different ways, too. You probably know it as a Shifter Clause word.

In a shifter clause "if" introduces a condition.

condition → result

If the weather is nice, we'll have a picnic.

In a completer clause "if" means "whether" and introduces a possibility.

I don't know if I'll go to the party or not.

Did the teacher say if there is a test tomorrow (or not)?

Lesson 25 Exercise 1

- 1) Read these sentences carefully. 2) Put brackets around the Completer Clause
- 3) Mark all of the words in the sentence. 4) Write "What?" over the completer clause. The completer clause includes the Where? and When? phrases.

-----WHAT?-----

* VxD CW * X Ving pr Dt *

Sarah said [that she is coming <to the party.].

-----WHAT?-----

* VxS CW Dt * X Ds

Donald thinks [that the world is flat!]

-----WHAT?-----

Dt * VxS CW * VXO Ds *

My mother knows [that I try hard <in school.].

-----WHAT?-----

* VxO CW Ger X Vb *

I believe [that learning English will open doors.].

-----WHAT?-----

Dt * VxD CW * X Ds pr *

My friend asked [why I was late <for class.].

-----WHAT?-----

* VxO CW Dt * X Vb

I wonder [when the meeting will finish].

-----WHAT?-----

X * Vb CW Dt * X

Do you know [where the office is] ?

-----WHAT?-----

Dt Ds * VxD CW * X Vb * *

The little girl wondered [if Santa Clause would bring her something].

Lesson 25 Exercise 2 Questions

Write "what" questions for each of these sentences.

Example: ★ VxD -----what-----

The little girl wondered if Santa Clause would bring her something.

What did the little girl wonder?

1) Donald thinks that the world is flat!

What does he think?

2) My friend asked why I was late for class.

What did my friend ask?

3) I know where the meeting is.

What do I know?

4) He told her when the meeting starts.

What did he tell her?

5) Tommie said that he would come over tonight.

What did Tommie say?

Lesson 25 Exercise 3

Completer clause or Describer clause?

You have seen that **Describer clauses** sometimes come at the end of the trunk. **Completer clauses** also come at the end of a trunk. Look at the following sentences. Place a **CW** over the clause word.

- Circle **DsC** if the clause is a **Describer Clause**.
- Circle **Cc** if it is a **Completer Clause**.

1. DsC Cc I think that it is time to go.
2. DsC Cc I like the kind of food that your mother makes.
3. DsC Cc The teacher told him that he had passed the examination.
4. DsC Cc We can't see why we should do that.



5. DsC Cc I didn't like any of the people that were at the party.
6. DsC Cc My neighbor is good at fixing computers that have viruses..
7. DsC Cc She asked if you were feeling alright.
8. DsC Cc Who's that woman that's talking to Raymond?

Lesson 25 Exercise 3

Write some answers to these questions. Use "that" as a clause word.

- 1) What do you think? _____
- 2) What do you believe? _____
- 3) What do you know? _____

Example answers:

- 1) I think that the world is round.
- 2) I believe he's coming to the party.
- 3) I know that she never lies.