

SUBORDINATE CLAUSE FUNCTIONING AS A NOUN (NOMINAL CLAUSE)

A subordinate clause functioning as a noun serves the following seven functions :

1. Functioning as a subject to a verb :

- (i) 'That he is poor is known to all.'

In the above sentence, 'is known to all' is the principal clause and 'that he is poor' is subordinate noun clause functioning as a subject to the verb 'is known'.

- (ii) 'Whatever is done is done.'

In the above sentence, 'is done' is the principal clause and 'whatever is done' is subordinate noun clause functioning as a subject to the verb 'is done'.

2. Functioning as an object to a verb :

- (i) 'I know that he is not happy.'

In the above sentence, 'I know' is the principal clause and 'that he is not happy' is subordinate noun clause functioning as an object to the verb 'know'.

- (ii) 'She asked why I was late.'

In the above sentence, 'she asked' is the principal clause and 'why I was late' is subordinate noun clause functioning as an object to the verb 'asked'.

3. Functioning as a complement to an incomplete verb¹ :

- (i) 'The fact is that he is foolish.'

In the above sentence, 'the fact is' is the principal clause and 'that he is foolish' is subordinate noun clause functioning as a complement to the incomplete verb 'is'.

- (ii) 'The reason of delay was that I was not feeling well.'

In the above sentence, 'the reason of delay was' is the principal clause and 'that I was not feeling well' is subordinate noun clause functioning as a complement to the incomplete verb 'was'.

4. Functioning as a complement to a preposition :

- (i) 'He laughed at whatever I said.'

¹ **incomplete verb** - (usually) linking verb.

In the above sentence, 'he laughed at' is the principal clause and 'whatever I said' is subordinate noun clause functioning as a complement to the preposition 'at'.

- (ii) 'I agree to what he says.'

In the above sentence, 'I agree to' is the principal clause and 'what he says' is subordinate noun clause functioning as a complement to the preposition 'to'.

- (iii) 'She is ashamed of what she has done.'

In the above sentence, 'she is ashamed of' is the principal clause and 'what she has done' is subordinate noun clause functioning as a complement to the preposition 'of'.

5. Functioning as an object to an infinitive :

- (i) 'He wants to say that he is not coming.'

In the above sentence, 'he wants to say' is the principal clause and 'that he is not coming' is subordinate noun clause functioning as an object to the infinitive 'to say'.

- (ii) 'I want to know where he has gone.'

In the above sentence, 'I want to know' is the principal clause and 'where he has gone' is subordinate noun clause functioning as an object to the infinitive 'to know'.

- (iii) 'She likes to tell what she feels.'

In the above sentence, 'she likes to tell' is the principal clause and 'what she feels' is subordinate noun clause functioning as an object to the infinitive 'to tell'.

6. Functioning as an object to a participle :

- (i) 'I went to the teacher finding that I could not solve the sum myself.'

In the above sentence, 'I went to the teacher finding' is the principal clause and 'that I could not solve the sum myself' is subordinate noun clause functioning as an object to the participle 'finding'.

- (ii) 'Knowing that he could not get through the examination, he engaged a tutor.'

In the above sentence, 'he engaged a tutor knowing' is the principal clause and 'that he could not get through the examination' is subordinate noun clause functioning as an object to the participle 'knowing'.

7. Functioning as an apposition to a noun or a pronoun :

APPOSITION

Addition of words, phrases, or clauses to another as an explanation is called an apposition. In other words, apposition means giving an additional information having the same grammatical status. For example,

Elizabeth II, the Queen of England, is coming to India.

In the above sentence, 'the Queen of England' is in apposition to 'Elizabeth II' and both having the same grammatical (i.e. the subject NP in both the cases) status as shown below :

- a) Elizabeth II is coming to India.
- b) The Queen of England is coming to India.

In addition, it is also to be noted that 'the Queen of England' is an extra information to 'Elizabeth II'.

- (i) 'The news that he has won the lottery is correct.'

In the above sentence, 'the news is correct' is the principal clause and 'that he has won the lottery' is subordinate noun clause functioning as an apposition to the noun/noun phrase 'the news'.

- a) The news is correct.
- b) That he has won the lottery is correct.

In the above examples, the subordinate clause 'that he has won the lottery' is in apposition to the noun phrase 'the news', and both having the same grammatical status of Subject-NP independently.

- (iii) 'It is true that she has given birth to a son.'

In the above sentence, 'It is true' is the principal clause and 'that she has given birth to a son' is subordinate noun clause functioning as an apposition to the pronoun 'it'.

- a) It is true.
- b) That she has given birth to a son is true.

In the above examples, the subordinate clause 'that she has given birth to a son' is in apposition to the pronoun 'it', and both having the same grammatical status of Subject-NP independently.

Apposition is a grammatical construction in which two elements, normally noun phrases, are placed side by side, with one element serving to explain the other in a different way; the two elements are said to be *in apposition*. One of the elements, which serves as an explanation, is called the appositive.

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