

Name _____

Date _____

Noun Clauses

Definition

A **noun clause** is a dependent clause that functions as a noun in a sentence. These clauses typically begin with words like that, what, whatever, who, which, whose, when, where, whether, why, or how.

Example

Function	Example	Beginning Word
As subject	"What she said surprised everyone."	what
As direct object	"I know that he arrived safely."	that
As object of preposition	"Pay attention to whatever the teacher says."	whatever
As predicate nominative	"The question is whether we should proceed."	whether
As indirect object	"Give whoever finishes first a prize."	whoever

Name _____

Date _____

Noun Clauses

Part 1: Multiple Choice Questions

Identify the noun clause in each sentence and determine its function in the sentence.

1. Scientists understand why geysers erupt at regular intervals.

- a) noun clause functioning as direct object
- b) noun clause functioning as subject
- c) noun clause functioning as object of preposition
- d) noun clause functioning as predicate nominative

2. What causes the superheated water to shoot up from the ground fascinated the visiting geologists.

- a) noun clause functioning as direct object
- b) noun clause functioning as subject
- c) noun clause functioning as object of preposition
- d) noun clause functioning as predicate nominative

3. The tour guide explained to the students how underground chambers fill with heated water.

- a) noun clause functioning as direct object
- b) noun clause functioning as subject
- c) noun clause functioning as object of preposition
- d) noun clause functioning as predicate nominative

4. The main question remains whether climate change will affect geyser activity.

- a) noun clause functioning as direct object
- b) noun clause functioning as subject
- c) noun clause functioning as object of preposition
- d) noun clause functioning as predicate nominative

Name _____

Date _____

Noun Clauses

5. Researchers are studying how the magma chambers beneath Iceland's surface create geothermal energy.

- a) noun clause functioning as direct object
- b) noun clause functioning as subject
- c) noun clause functioning as object of preposition
- d) noun clause functioning as indirect object

Part 2: Fill in the Blank

Complete each sentence with an appropriate noun clause.

1. Iceland's tourists are amazed by _____
(noun clause as object of preposition).

2. _____ (noun clause as subject)
determines the eruption cycle of Strokkur Geyser.

3. Geologists have discovered _____ (noun
clause as direct object) about the underground heat sources.

4. The most interesting aspect of geysers is
_____ (noun clause as predicate
nominative).

5. Local guides often explain to visitors
_____ (noun clause as direct object) about
Iceland's geothermal features.

Name _____

Date _____

Noun Clauses – Answer Key

Part 1: Multiple Choice Questions

1. a) 2. b) 3. a) 4. d) 5. a)

Part 2: Fill in the Blank

Possible answers:

1. (noun clause as object of preposition):

- 1) what they witness when Geysir erupts
- 2) how the hot springs create colorful mineral deposits
- 3) where the most powerful geysers are located

2. (noun clause as subject):

- 1) How much pressure builds up in the underground chambers
- 2) What temperature the water reaches before eruption
- 3) How the underground plumbing system functions

3. (noun clause as direct object):

that magma close to the surface heats Iceland's groundwater
how different minerals affect the color of hot springs
why some geysers are more predictable than others

4. (noun clause as predicate nominative):

how they convert thermal energy into spectacular eruptions
what causes their distinctive eruption patterns
how they've formed over thousands of years

5. (noun clause as direct object):

why Iceland has such abundant geothermal activity
how the Mid-Atlantic Ridge creates ideal conditions for geysers
what makes Strokkur erupt approximately every ten minutes