Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_

Notes on Complex Sentences: Noun Clauses

Definition of a NOUN CLAUSE COMPLEX SENTENCE:

A Noun Clause is a Dependent Clause that fills in one of the five (5) noun positions in the sentence:

Subject, Direct Object, Indirect Object, Predicate Nominative, and Object of the Preposition

It can be anywhere in the sentence where a noun may be. Essentially, it is a clause that works as a single noun.

What are the words that are MOST OFTEN used to begin a Noun Clause?

Who

Whom

Whoever

Whomever

What

Whatever

How

That

Where

Wherever

Why

If

Whether or not

Comma Rule for Noun Clauses:

The Noun (Dependent) Clause can NOT be removed from the sentence. Therefore, the Noun Clause will NEVER need a comma.

Example #1: Noun Clauses as SUBJECTS

You owe me an apology.

Whoever ate the last brown sugar and cinnamon Pop Tart owes me an apology.

NOUN CLAUSE (SUBJECT)

1. Whatever caused the awful smell in the bathroom is now under criminal investigation.

2. How you discipline your demonic toddler is your business.

3. Whoever dropped the pungent stink-bombs in the stairways has the maturity of a peanut.

Example #2: Noun Clauses as DIRECT OBJECTS

Mr. Cooper told me everything. Answers WHAT or WHOM

Mr. Cooper told me how he secretly collects Barbie Dolls.

NOUN CLAUSE (DIRECT OBJECT)

4. Hayley told Fred that she has a love of pickled eggs.

5. Emily asked Josh if he was hungry for Slim Jims.

6. Teddy wondered what his Halloween party guests would think of the cans of Vienna sausages as party favors.

Example #3: Noun Clauses as PREDICATE NOMINATIVES

The pot-luck lunch was Dorito Casserole. Answers WHAT or WHO

The pot-luck lunch was whatever the lunch ladies had left over.

NOUN CLAUSE (PREDICATE NOMINATIVE)

7. You are what you eat.

8. Maddy’s solution for world peace is that we should all just wear ghetto-fabulous puffy coats and dance to gangsta rap.

9. The reason for Hanna’s poor grades in Earth Science was that she was always daydreaming about unicorns and midgets.

Example #4: Noun Clauses as INDIRECT OBJECTS

The naïve PETA protestor found us free fur coats from the rally.

Answers TO OR FOR WHAT or TO OR FOR WHOM

The naïve PETA protestor found whoever was cold free fur coats from the rally.

NOUN CLAUSE (INDIRECT OBJECT)

10. Mitchell gave whomever he saw free noogies.

11. Momo brought whatever was living in her shed a warm breakfast of pancakes and rubbing alcohol.

12. Marsh gave whoever got a perfect score on the Wednesday quiz a gift basket of Goya products and tainted canned meats.

Example #5: Noun Clauses as OBJECT OF THE PREPOSITION

For inspiration before the football game, Coach gave a speech on determination.

For inspiration before the football game, Coach gave a speech on what it means to be a winner.

NOUN CLAUSE (OBJECT OF THE PREPOSITION)

13. At Anthony’s birthday party, Tim talked with Courtney about how his head once got caught in a carpenter’s vice.

14. Sami and her Nicaraguan donkey danced a passionate mambo for whoever would pay them a quarter.

15. Nobody would question Mr. Cantrell on why he was not shaving his legs during Lent.

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_

Notes on Complex Sentences: Noun Clauses: ANSWERS

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