

## The Noun Clause

**17e.** A *noun clause* is a subordinate clause that is used as a noun.

A noun clause may be used as a *subject*, a *predicate nominative*, a *direct object*, an *indirect object*, or an *object of a preposition*.

- EXAMPLES** **Whoever wants to come with us** is welcome. [subject]  
 Dinner time will be **whenever you arrive**. [predicate nominative]  
 I understand **how that works**. [direct object]  
 Ying Par will give **whoever asks** some help. [indirect object]  
 Sam told his story to **whoever would listen**. [object of a preposition]

**EXERCISE A** In the following sentences, underline each noun clause. If the sentence contains no noun clause, write *none* at the end of the sentence.

**Example 1.** I saw a demonstration of how traffic signals work.

1. What Garrett Morgan invented in 1923 was the earliest traffic signal.
2. How he became an inventor after only six years of school is a mystery to me.
3. Less commonly known is that earlier he invented a breathing device.
4. Morgan had been trying to sell the gas masks that he invented to the Cleveland, Ohio, water company.
5. The company asked him to bring his devices to a tunnel that had caved in.
6. Twenty-four men were awaiting rescue by whoever had the necessary equipment.
7. Morgan, his brother, and two volunteers did whatever they could.
8. The city considered him to be a hero for saving most of the men who had been trapped.
9. Ultimately, Morgan sold his breathing device to whoever needed one.
10. Wouldn't people say that his invention is noteworthy?

**EXERCISE B** In each of the following sentences, underline the noun clause. Then, above the clause, write one of the following abbreviations to indicate how the clause is used: *S* for *subject*, *IO* for *indirect object*, *PN* for *predicate nominative*, *OP* for *object of a preposition*, and *DO* for *direct object*.

**Example 1.** Mr. Harrison asked <sup>DO</sup> if anyone had read the Gettysburg Address.

11. Whether or not there is life on other planets is still a matter of speculation.
12. Mrs. Driscoe gave an orange to whoever wanted one.
13. Your success will be determined by how you plan your time.
14. Pilar's reason for being late was that she had overslept.