What Clauses Do

The same kind of building block can play different roles in a sentence.

9-10.L.1.b "Use various types of phrases (noun, verb, adjectival, adverbial, participial, gerund, infinitive, prepositional, absolute) and clauses (independent, dependent; noun, relative, adverbial) to convey specific meanings..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

NOUN CLAUSE

A noun clause is a dependent clause that does a noun's job. It can serve as the subject of a sentence or the object of a verb.

That the compass failed surprised the hikers.

ADVERBIAL CLAUSE

An adverbial clause is a dependent clause that adds a circumstance to a main clause. It can show when, why, under what condition, or despite what something happens.

Although the lantern flickered, the campers continued reading.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle NOUN or ADVERB for each bold clause, then choose two items and explain what job each clause does in its sentence.

1.	**What the witness omitted** changed the jury's interpretation of the recording.	NOUN	ADVERB
2.	The committee questioned **whether the proposed mural represented the neighborhood fairly**.	NOUN	ADVERB
3.	**Although the archive lacked a date**, the curator traced the letter to its author.	NOUN	ADVERB
4.	No one predicted **how quickly the rumor would reshape the debate**.	NOUN	ADVERB
5.	The journalist checked three sources **before she published the accusation**.	NOUN	ADVERB
6.	**If the city removes the benches**, the plaza may become less welcoming.	NOUN	ADVERB
7.	**Why the lights went out during the hearing** remains unclear.	NOUN	ADVERB
8.	The students revised their proposal **because the survey revealed a gap in access**.	NOUN	ADVERB

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write two original sentences about the same issue, one containing a noun clause and one containing an adverbial clause; underline each clause.

NOUN _____

ADVERB _____

CHALLENGE

Revise your noun-clause sentence to add an adverbial clause that explains why the issue matters; underline both clauses.

ANSWER KEY

What Clauses Do

HIGH SCHOOL · 9-10.L.1.b

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	**What the witness omitted** changed the jury's interpretation of the recording.	**NOUN**	The clause is the subject of changed.
2	The committee questioned **whether the proposed mural represented the neighborhood fairly**.	**NOUN**	The clause is the object of questioned.
3	**Although the archive lacked a date**, the curator traced the letter to its author.	**ADVERB**	The clause shows a contrast with the curator's success.
4	No one predicted **how quickly the rumor would reshape the debate**.	**NOUN**	The clause is the object of predicted.
5	The journalist checked three sources **before she published the accusation**.	**ADVERB**	The clause tells when the journalist checked the sources.
6	**If the city removes the benches**, the plaza may become less welcoming.	**ADVERB**	The clause states a condition for the possible result.
7	**Why the lights went out during the hearing** remains unclear.	**NOUN**	The clause is the subject of remains.
8	The students revised their proposal **because the survey revealed a gap in access**.	**ADVERB**	The clause gives the reason for the revision.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **NOUN**: We debated <u>whether the library should extend its weekend hours</u>.
- **ADVERB**: <u>Because the library closes early on Saturdays</u>, many students cannot study there.

Challenge: <u>Because students need a quiet place on Saturdays</u>, we debated <u>whether the library should extend its weekend hours</u>.

For Part 2, accept explanations that identify the bold clause's role in its sentence, not just its opening word. In Part 3, check that each underlined group contains a subject and verb and performs the named role.