

## Noun clauses

which begin with a question word\*  
are also called **Embedded Questions**



- Where *does she live*?
- I don't know *where she lives*.
  
- Which road *should I take*?
- I wonder which road *I should take*.

\*Question words: who, what, where, when, how, how many, why, which, whom.

# How to form a noun clause

(Study the following examples:)

- What **did** he say?                      ► I couldn't hear *what he said*.
- When **do** they arrive?                ► Do you know *when they arrive*?

**Does, did, and do** are used in questions but not in noun clauses.

Look what happens to the word order above *in blue*.

The noun clause comes after the main verb in the sentence. (hear, know)

Do not use question word order in a noun clause. Use question word-plus-subject-plus-verb order and keep the same tense (past and present in the examples above).

## When the question word is the subject

- *Who lives there?*

I don't know *who lives there*.

- *What happened?*

Please tell me *what happened*.

In the first example, the word order is the same in both the question and noun clause because *who* is the subject of both.

# Noun clauses as subject

- What did she say? • *What she said* surprised me.
- What should they do? • *What they should do* is obvious.

Notice: A noun clause subject takes a singular verb. (is)

# Practice

- Who is she? I don't know \_\_\_\_\_.
- Who are those men? I don't know \_\_\_\_\_.
- Whose house is that? I wonder \_\_\_\_\_.
- How old is he? I don't know \_\_\_\_\_.
- What was he talking about?  
\_\_\_\_\_ was interesting.