

Comparison between “Preposition + Noun Clause” and “Preposition + Adjective Clause”

Similarities

1. **Preposition** can be placed in front of both **noun clauses** and **adjective clauses**.

⊕ Example

- 1) I can not approve **of** what you did for me.
- 2) Somchai likes a Mariah Carey’s nice song “We Belong Together” **to** which I always listen.

2. When a preposition is placed in front of **adjective clauses’ conjunctions: whom and which**, there must be a **sentence** after their conjunctions.

⊕ Example

- 1) Jeff is the boy **on** whom my life depends.
- 2) Aj. Patcharaporn would like to buy Nissan March **in** which she likes very much.

3. When a preposition is placed in front of noun clauses' conjunctions, there can be either **a sentence** or **a verb** after the noun clauses' **conjunctions**, depending on each type of noun clauses' conjunctions.

Conjunctions	Followed by
whether	A sentence
how	
what	A verb

⊕ Example

- 1) His decision will **depend on** whether anyone goes with him.
- 2) Her future life will **depend** very much **on** how hard she works.
- 3) Macky has **insisted on** what she said.
- 4) Ladda wants to **find out** what has made him smart.

Differences

1. Different conjunctions

- Adj. → **“Whom”** and **“Which”** are the only two **adjective clauses’ conjunctions** to have prepositions.

- ⊕ Example

- 1) Thomas is the man **on whom** my mother has looked down.
- 2) Siam is the station **at which** I usually arrive at 6 pm.

- N. → **“What”** , **“Whether”** , and **“How”** are the only **noun clauses’ conjunctions** to have prepositions.

- ⊕ Example

- 1) Marry can not agree **on what** he did last night.
- 2) I shall carry **out whether** my sister would like to do this project (or not).
- 3) To get TOEIFL 500 truly relies **on how** mentally strong you are.

(N.B.: **“That”** and **“ If ”** can not have any preposition in front of them.)

2. Preposition comes from different places.

- A preposition of an **adjective clause** comes from a **subordinate verb**.

- ⊕ Example

I would like to know the subject **in which you are interested**. (**V. to be interested in**)

- A preposition of a **noun clause** comes from a **main verb**.

- ⊕ Example

You must **cut down what you eat daily**. (**V. to cut down**)

3. There are different kinds of parts of speech in front of the preposition.

- For a **noun clause**, there is usually a **main verb** in front of the preposition.

- ⊕ Example

- 1) I can not **give in what I am trying to do**.
- 2) Delta will not **put off what she has to finish by tomorrow**.

- For an **adjective clause**, there must be a **noun** in front of the preposition. Moreover, the adjective clause must **modify** that noun.

- ⊕ Example

- 1) Reberto was the boy **on whom Lady Gaga loved and relied.**
- 2) Marry would like you to explain the reason **on which Stefani insisted.**

4. Conjunctions play their roles in different ways.

- Noun Clause **with** a Preposition

- ⊕ Example

- 1) The first permanent European settlement in what is now Mississippi was a trading center in Billoxi.
- 2) In the early 1800's, a dispute developed among geologists about how rocks are formed.

- Noun Clause **without** Any Preposition

- ❖ After Noun / Pronoun + Conjunction + S + V + (O) or Conjunction + V + (O)

- ❖ The noun in front of the subordinate clause **is not modified** by the subordinate clause.

⊕ Example

- 1) I can not tell my students what will be in the test, but I can only tell them that the test will be difficult.
- 2) Hilary can give her children what they want.
- 3) I can not answer you how you can solve this problem.

➤ Adjective Clause

- ❖ After N. → Prep + Conjunction + S + V + (O)
- ❖ The noun in front of the subordinate clause **is modified by** that subordinate clause.

⊕ Example

1) The car in which I got last night is P'Pao's car.



2) The song to which I listened yesterday is "Angles Cry".



3) The man for whom I voted turned out to be a convicted man.

