

第十二章：名词从句

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什么是合句

如果两个各自能独立的简单句，中间以 and、but、or 等连接词连起来，两句之间维持平行、对称的关系，没有主从之分，就称之为合句：

Girls like dolls, but boys like robots.

什么是复句

如果将一个句子改造成名词、形容词或副词，放到另一个句子中使用，就称之为从属从句，另一句则称之为主要从句。合并而成的句子有主从之分，就成为复句 (complex sentence)。

名词从句

1. I know something.
2. I am right.

合并: I know **that** I am right.

形容词从句

1. My father is a man.
2. He always keeps his word.

合并: My father is **a man who** always keeps his word.

形容词从句又称关系从句。两个各自独立的句子之间必须要有关系，也就是要有一个重复的元素存在。比如 am 和 he 就是重复元素，可建立关系。

副词从句

1. He works hard.
2. He's in need of money.

He works hard **because** he's in need of money.

两者之间有因果关系，所以用 because 连接起来。

典型的名词从句

1. 本身本身就是完整独立的简单句。
2. 前面加上连接词 that，无意义，只有语法功能，表示后面跟着一个名词从句。
3. 名词从句必须放在主要从句的名词位置 (主语、宾语、补语、同位语)。

主语位置

1. Something is strange.
2. He didn't show up on time.

合并:

1. **That** he didn't show up on time is strange.
2. **It is strange that** he didn't show up on time.

名词从句如果很长 (he didn't show up on time), 直接放入主语位置使用时, 可能会让读者看不清楚, 这个时候需要用 it 这个虚词填入主语位置。

宾语从句

1. The defendant said something.
2. He didn't do it.

合并: The defendant said **that** he didn't do it.

That 没有意义, 只有语法标记功能, 所以有时可以省略。如果名词从句放在及物动词后面的宾语位置, 就可以很清楚的知道是名词从句, that 可以省略:

- The defendant said **that** he didn't do it: 可省略。
- **That** he didn't show up is strange: 不可省略。

总之, 能不能省略, 需要看省略后能不能维持原来的意思:

1. I find something strange.
2. He didn't show up on time.

合并:

- I find it strange **that** he didn't show up on time.
- I find **that** he didn't show up on time strange: 造成补语 strange 不清晰。

补语位置

The car is ruined. The important thing is **that** we're all right: 此处 we're all right 是补语。因为 that 去掉后意思仍然清晰, 所以可以直接去掉。

同位语位置

同位语就是形容词从句简化之后留下的补语。

- The story **that he once killed a man** might just be true: he once killed a man 是一个完整的句子, 但是加上 that 后就是一个从句, 放在 story 的后面作为它的同位语, 就是和它是同等的东西。其实就是补语嘛。
- I am afraid that I can't help you: I can't help 是完整的句子, 加上 that 就是名词从句, 但是主句中 I am afraid 中看不出有任何名词位置, 这是因为原句中省略了。原句为 I am afraid of that thing。此处用 I can't help 替代无意义的 of that thing。

名词从句的放大

名词从句的内容，有时候比主句还重要。这个时候就需要颠倒位置：

- This is your last offer, I suppose: 重要的在前。
- I suppose that this is your last offer.

疑问句改装的名词从句

典型的名词从句是外加连接词 that，表示那件事情 (that thing)。另外，疑问词 (who, what, when) 引导的疑问句也可以改装：

1. I know question.
2. Who are you.

合并：I know who you are.

Whether 和 if

Whether 并不能独立当作疑问词来引导一个带问号的疑问句，可是能引导代表一个问题的名词从句：

1. I can't tell which.
2. Either he's telling the truth or he's not.

合并：I can't tell whether he's telling the truth or not.

在表示是否时，whether 和 if 都可以互换，但是在句首位置和介系词后面就只能用 whether：

- The treatment will be decided by whether the tumor is malignant or not.
- Whether the stock market will improve or not is impossible to say now.