Name: _____

Noun Clauses: Acting as a Noun

A noun clause is a type of subordinate clause; it has a subject and verb but cannot stand alone as an independent sentence. A noun clause functions the same way a noun does: as a subject; as a direct object; as an indirect object; etc. Some noun clauses begin with words such as *that, what, why,* or other words that start with *wh-*.

Example: She didn't hear what I was saying.

In the example, *what I was saying* is the noun clause. It is functioning as a direct object.

Underline the noun clause in each sentence below. In the blank write how it is functioning in the sentence.

1. The students were in trouble for what they did in the hall.

_____

2. What my brother enjoys most is playing soccer.

_____

3. She explained why she couldn't come to the party.

_____

4. Mrs. Scott assigned whoever was late extra homework.

_____

5. Whoever first ate oysters was very brave.

_____

6. The speaker told about where he went on his vacation.

_____

7. The team knew that they would follow the coach's instructions.

_____

8. The club will give whoever wins the race a gold cup.

_____