

THE THREE THATS

AND THEIR DIFFERENT FUNCTIONAL HATS

“I think that if I ever have kids, and they are upset, I won't tell them that people are starving in China or anything like that because it wouldn't change the fact that they were upset. And even if somebody else has it much worse, that doesn't really change the fact that you have what you have.”

Stephen Chbosky

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| | “I think | |
| content clause | | that if I ever have kids, and they are upset, I won't tell them |
| content clause | | that people are starving in China or anything like |
| demonstrative pronoun | | that because it wouldn't change the fact |
| adjective clause | | that they were upset. And even if somebody else has it much worse, |
| demonstrative pronoun | | that doesn't really change the fact |
| adjective clause | | that you have what you have.” |

Demonstrative Pronouns (this, **that**, these, those)

The demonstrative pronoun points at something and can easily be replaced by another demonstrative pronoun.

Relative Pronouns (**that**, who, which, whose, whom)

Relative Adverbs (how, why, when)

The **fact that** they were upset. (that = fact)

Adjective clauses use a **relative pronoun** is linked to preceding noun, called the **antecedent**, and expands on it. The entire clause CAN be deleted, but may change the meaning of the sentence if it identifies the noun (refer to Restrictive or Not).

Relative adverbs function similarly but require specific nouns, such as “method”, “reason”, or “time”.

Conjunctions (**that**, what, who, why, where, how, whoever)

The **conjunction** creates a **content clause** and usually follows verbs of perception, cognition, and reporting. Content clauses can follow some adjectives and reporting nouns as well.

He was **sure that the answer was correct.** The **information that you won was surprising.**

The entire clause can be replaced by another pronoun, which is why they are typically called **noun clauses**.

I think **that if I ever have kids**... I think it. I think this. I think that.

Relative clauses which do not serve as a part of a sentence and are parenthetical; however, **content clauses** can serve as the subject, object, and the object of a preposition of a sentence.