

1. He considers himself to be a genius.
2. He considered dieting to be unnecessary.
3. She considered that the waffle iron was broken.
4. He finally managed to get the bill paid.
5. I see you found the book.
6. When you see her dancing, you forget you hate her.
7. He is aware that he's a figure of fun.
8. He never confessed to robbing the bank.
9. You'd better forget about asking him again.
10. He promised me never to smoke another cigarette.
11. He ordered me never to smoke another cigarette.
12. She's afraid to confront him.
13. Don't forget he's a Black Belt.
14. They saw her leave.
15. I promised to wash the dishes.
16. He knows why we're here.
17. Will they know to come here?
18. I listened to him tell the story once again.
19. He confessed that he took the book.
20. Bill doesn't know what bit him.
21. Frank is aware of what bit him.
22. Joe never knew it bit him.

English Object Complements

On the other side you will find some example sentences illustrating several processes that apply to **object complements** i.e, **noun clauses** that function as direct object). The **matrix predicates** (i.e, the heads of the VPs that have the noun clauses as objects) are underlined in each. These predicates are:

see *promise* *know (about)* *(be) aware (of)* *forget (about)*
order *consider* *listen (to)* *confess (to)* *(be) afraid (of)*

Each of these (like all predicates) has its special pattern of usage. The relevant variables in this pattern are the type(s) of complement (non-finite ones like infinitive and gerund, and tensed ones like *that* S and embedded *WH*-question) that are allowed or required by the matrix predicate, two rules that can apply to object complements:

- 1) **Equivalent Noun Phrase Deletion** (Equi; with non-finite complements)
- 2) **Subject-Raising** (Raising; with infinitives only)

and other rules, like **Passive**, that may be fed by these rules. Note that object complements can occur with both 2-place predicates (with Equi from Subject and Raising to Object) and 3-place predicates (with Equi from Object but without Raising).

Give syntax lab reports for each predicate, with example sentences (your own or ones from the data) for questions (1) – (4), noting any unusual phenomena. For example,

Predicate: *believe* 2-place predicate Test clause: PAST (WRITE (BILL, KK))

- 1)a Does the predicate take a plain gerund complement?
No. *I believe Bill('s) writing/having written "King Kong".
- 1)b Does the predicate take a gerund complement with Equi?
No. *Bill believes writing/having written "King Kong".
- 2) Does the predicate take a *that*-complement?
Yes. I believe (that) Bill wrote "King Kong". (Optional *that*)
- 3)a Does the predicate take a plain infinitive complement?
No. *I believe for Bill to write/have written "King Kong".
- 3)b Does the predicate take an infinitive complement with Equi?
No. *Bill believes to write/have written "King Kong".
- 3)c Does the predicate take an infinitive with Subject-Raising?
Yes. I believe Bill to have written "King Kong".
Bill believes himself to have written "King Kong".
- 3)d Does the predicate take an infinitive feeding Passive?
Yes. Bill is believed to have written "King Kong". (Fed by Raising)
- 4) Does the predicate take an embedded question complement?
No. *I believe whether Bill wrote "King Kong".

Summary: *That*-clause and Infinitive with Raising (optionally feeding Passive).

English Object Complements

PREDICATE: *see* 2-place predicate Test clause: PAST (WRITE (BILL, KK))

1)a Plain gerund?

Yes. I saw Bill(*'s) writing "King Kong". (ACC only; sense verb)

1)b Gerund with Equi?

No. *Bill sees/saw writing/having written "King Kong".

2) *That*-complement?

Yes. I see (that) Bill wrote "King Kong". (Optional *that*)

3)a Plain infinitive?

No. *I see for Bill to write/have written "King Kong".

3)b Infinitive with Equi?

No. *Bill sees to write/have written "King Kong".

3)c Infinitive with Raising?

No. *I see Bill to write/have written "King Kong".

*Bill sees himself to write/have written "King Kong".

3)d Infinitive feeding Passive?

Yes. Bill was seen to have written "King Kong". (Fed by Raising)

4) Embedded question?

No. *I see whether Bill wrote "King Kong".

Summary: ACC-*ing*, *that*-clause, and infinitive with Raising obligatorily feeding Passive.

PREDICATE: *order* 3-place Test clause: WRITE (BILL, KK)

1)a Plain gerund?

No. *I ordered Mary Bill's writing "King Kong".

1)b Gerund with Equi?

No. *I ordered Bill's writing "King Kong".

2) *That*-complement?

Yes. I ordered (that) Bill write "King Kong". (NB: uninflected verb:

*I ordered (that) Bill writes "King Kong".)

3)a Plain infinitive?

No. *I ordered Bill for him to write "King Kong".

3)b Infinitive with Equi?

Yes. I ordered Bill to write "King Kong".

3)c Infinitive with Raising?

No. (3-place predicate)

3)d Infinitive feeding Passive?

Yes. Bill was ordered to write "King Kong". (Fed by Equi)

4) Embedded question?

No. *I ordered whether Bill wrote "King Kong".

Summary: *That*-complement, obligatorily uninflected, and Infinitive with Equi, optionally feeding Passive.

English Object Complements

PREDICATE: *promise* 3-place Test clause: WRITE (BILL, KK)

1)a Plain gerund?

No. *I promised Mary Bill('s) writing "King Kong".

1)b Gerund with Equi?

No. *Bill promised Mary writing "King Kong".

2) *That*-complement?

Yes. I promised Mary (that) Bill would write "King Kong".

(NB: Future reference in complement)

3)a Plain infinitive?

No. *Bill promised Mary for him to write "King Kong".

3)b Infinitive with Equi?

Yes. Bill promised Mary to write "King Kong". (NB: Equi from Subject)

3)c Infinitive with Raising?

No. (3-place predicate)

3)d Infinitive feeding Passive?

No. *Mary was promised (for Bill) to write "King Kong".

4) Embedded question?

No. *I promised whether Bill would write "King Kong".

Summary: *That*-clause, with future reference, and Infinitive with Equi, controlled by Subject.

PREDICATE: *consider* 2-place Test clause: PAST (WRITE (BILL, KK))

1)a Plain gerund?

Yes. I considered Bill('s) writing "King Kong". (ACC or POSS)

1)b Gerund with Equi?

Yes. Bill considered writing "King Kong".

2) *That*-complement?

No. *I consider that Bill wrote "King Kong".

3)a Plain infinitive?

No. *I consider for Bill to write/have written "King Kong".

3)b Infinitive with Equi?

No. *Bill considered to write/have written "King Kong".

3)c Infinitive with Raising?

Yes. I consider Bill to have written "King Kong".

3)d Infinitive feeding Passive?

Yes. *Bill is considered to have written "King Kong". (fed by Raising)

4) Embedded question?

Yes. I considered whether Bill had written "King Kong".

(NB: Disjunctive Q – means 'the question of whether ...')

Summary: Gerund with optional Equi, Infinitive with Raising (optionally feeding Passive), and disjunctive Embedded Question.

English Object Complements

PREDICATE: *know* (*about*) 2-place Test clause: PAST (WRITE (BILL, KK))

1)a Plain gerund?

Yes. I know about Bill('s) writing "King Kong". (ACC or POSS)

1)b Gerund with Equi?

Yes. Bill knows about writing "King Kong". (NB: Equi or Indef)

2) *That*-complement?

Yes. I know (that) Bill wrote "King Kong". (Optional *that*)

3)a Plain infinitive?

No. *I know for Bill to write/have written "King Kong".

3)b Infinitive with Equi?

Yes. Bill knew to write "King Kong". (NB: special sense; means Bill knew he was supposed write "King Kong".)

3)c Infinitive with Raising?

Yes. I know Bill to have written "King Kong".

3)d Infinitive feeding Passive?

Yes. Bill is known to have written "King Kong". (fed by Raising)

4) Embedded question?

Yes. I know whether Bill wrote "King Kong".

(NB: Conjunctive Q – means 'the answer to the question of whether ...')

Summary: Everything except plain Infinitive; special sense for Equi Infinitive.

PREDICATE: *listen* (*to*) 2-place Test clause: SING (BILL, DIXIE)

1)a Plain gerund?

Yes. I listened to Bill(*'s) singing "Dixie". (ACC only; sense verb)

1)b Gerund with Equi?

No. *Bill listened (to) singing "Dixie".

2) *That*-complement?

No. *I listened (that) Bill sang "Dixie".

3)a Plain infinitive?

Yes. I listened to Bill sing "Dixie".

3)b Infinitive with Equi?

No. *Bill listened to write sing "Dixie".

3)c Infinitive with Raising?

No. *I listened Bill to sing "Dixie".

3)d Infinitive feeding Passive?

No. *Bill was listened to sing/have sung "Dixie".

4) Embedded question?

No. *I listened (to) whether Bill sang "Dixie".

Summary: Plain Gerund and Infinitive only.

English Object Complements

PREDICATE: (*be*) **aware** (*of*) 2-place Test clause: PAST (WRITE (BILL, KK))

1)a Plain gerund?

Yes. I am aware of Bill('s) writing/having written "King Kong". (ACC or POSS)

1)b Gerund with Equi?

Yes. Bill is aware of writing/having written "King Kong".

2) *That*-complement?

Yes. I am aware (that) Bill wrote "King Kong". (Optional *that*)

3)a Plain infinitive?

No. *I am aware for Bill to write/have written "King Kong".

3)b Infinitive with Equi?

No. *I'm aware (of/for) Bill to write/have written "King Kong".

3)c Infinitive with Raising?

No. *I am aware (of) Bill to write/have written "King Kong".

3)d Infinitive feeding Passive?

No. (*aware* does not take Passive.)

4) Embedded question?

Yes. I am aware of whether Bill wrote "King Kong".

(NB: Conjunctive Q – means 'the answer to the question of whether ...')

Summary: Gerund with optional Equi, *that*, and conjunctive embedded Q.

PREDICATE: **confess** (*to*) 2-place Test clause: PAST (WRITE (BILL, KK))

1)a Plain gerund?

No. *I confessed (to) Bill('s) writing "King Kong".

1)b Gerund with Equi?

Yes. Bill confessed to writing/having written "King Kong".

2) *That*-complement?

Yes. Bill confessed (that) he wrote/had written "King Kong".

3)a Plain infinitive?

No. *I confessed for Bill to write/have written "King Kong".

3)b Infinitive with Equi?

No. *Bill considered to write/have written "King Kong".

3)c Infinitive with Raising?

Yes. I consider Bill to have written "King Kong".

3)d Infinitive feeding Passive?

Yes. Bill is considered to have written "King Kong". (fed by Raising)

4) Embedded question?

Yes. I considered whether Bill had written "King Kong".

(NB: Disjunctive Q – means 'the question of whether ...')

Summary: Gerund with optional Equi, Infinitive with Raising (optionally feeding Passive), and disjunctive Embedded Question.

English Object Complements

PREDICATE: *forget* (*about*) 2-place Test clause: PAST (WRITE (BILL, KK))

1)a Plain gerund?

Yes. I forgot about Bill('s) writing "King Kong". (ACC or POSS)

1)b Gerund with Equi?

Yes. Bill forgot about writing/having written "King Kong".

2) *That*-complement?

Yes. I forgot (that) Bill wrote/had written "King Kong".

3)a Plain infinitive?

No. *I forgot about Bill to write/have written "King Kong".

3)b Infinitive with Equi?

Yes. Bill forgot to write "King Kong". (NB: entails he did not write it)

3)c Infinitive with Raising?

No. *I forgot Bill to write/have written "King Kong".

3)d Infinitive feeding Passive?

No. *Bill is forgotten to have written "King Kong".

4) Embedded question?

Yes. I forget whether Bill wrote "King Kong". (NB: Disjunctive Q)

Summary: Gerund with optional Equi, *that*-complement,
Infinitive with Equi, and disjunctive Embedded Question.

PREDICATE: (*be*) *afraid* (*of*) 2-place Test clause: WRITE (BILL, KK)

1)a Plain gerund?

Yes. I'm afraid of Bill(*'s) writing "King Kong". (ACC only)

1)b Gerund with Equi?

Yes. Bill's afraid of writing "King Kong".

2) *That*-complement?

Yes. I'm afraid (that) Bill wrote "King Kong".

3)a Plain infinitive?

No. *I'm afraid of Bill to write/have written "King Kong".

3)b Infinitive with Equi?

Yes. Bill's afraid to write "King Kong".

3)c Infinitive with Raising?

No. *I'm afraid (of) Bill to write/have written "King Kong".

3)d Infinitive feeding Passive?

No. (*afraid* does not take Passive.)

4) Embedded question?

No. *I'm afraid whether Bill wrote "King Kong".

Summary: ACC-*ing* with optional Equi, *that*-complement, Infinitive with Equi.

These are Object Complements. For Subject Complements, see
<http://www.umich.edu/~jlawler/EnglishSubjectComplementsSolution>