

## That-clauses



### Grammar in Context

Theme: Leisure and entertainment

Words by Theme



Read the news article and answer the questions.

News

Opinions

Sports

Culture

Lifestyle

### Hong Kong veteran actor<sup>1</sup> Ng Man-tat dies at 69

1i It is a great shock that Ng Man-tat, the skilled<sup>2</sup> veteran actor, passed away yesterday. He died of liver cancer in hospital.

The 69-year-old beloved<sup>3</sup> star appeared in over 200 local films and TV dramas. Although he was best known for collaborating<sup>4</sup> with Stephen Chow as a supporting actor, he was **such a versatile actor<sup>5</sup> that he successfully portrayed<sup>6</sup> various film roles.** 1ii Ng once said in an interview, 'It is essential that every actor does their best. Every character is important in a production.'

Ng was very experienced. However, he was humble about his acting skills. He was **so professional that he kept honing<sup>7</sup> his acting skills.** **It surprised the audience that Ng always brought something special to a film.**

In front of the camera, Ng was hilarious<sup>8</sup>; behind the scenes, he was a quiet person. He believed **it was crucial that he had a clear mind before shooting.**

That Ng was an iconic<sup>9</sup> actor is unquestionable. 1iii It is unfortunate that we have lost a legend<sup>10</sup>. Nevertheless, his contribution<sup>11</sup> to the entertainment industry will never be forgotten.



1. Read sentences 1i – 1iii. Underline the correct answers.

- (i) It is ( shocked / shocking ) that Ng Man-tat has passed away.
- (ii) Ng found it ( necessary / unimportant ) that every actor does their best.
- (iii) The ( idea / fact ) that Ng has passed away is unfortunate.

2. Complete the sentences using ONE word.

Ng	was	_____	a brilliant actor	that he brought a scripted character to life.
Ng	was	_____	brilliant	

## PART 1A It ... that-clause

A *that*-clause is a noun clause. It answers the *what* question.

<i>It</i>	Verb to be	Adjective / Noun	<i>that</i> -clause
<i>It</i>	<i>is</i>	<i>necessary</i>	<i>that we follow the instructions.</i>
<i>It</i>	<i>was</i>	<i>incredible</i>	<i>that hidden rooms were found in the pyramid.</i>
<i>It</i>	<i>was</i>	<i>a pity</i>	<i>that Karen missed the live broadcast.</i>
<i>It</i>	<i>isn't</i>	<i>a surprise</i>	<i>that Jeff speaks German.</i>

A *that*-clause can also come at the beginning of a sentence as the subject before the main verb.

Dummy subject

▪ *It is sad that Grandpa has forgotten who I am.*

→

Real subject

*That Grandpa has forgotten who I am* is sad.

▪ *It is a pity that children spend little time outside.*

→

*That children spend little time outside* is a pity.

## Error Diagnosis

A *that*-clause is always a singular subject, and thus followed by a singular verb.

*That the children hate video games* surprise their teacher.

*That the children hate video games* **surprises** their teacher. (= *It surprises their teacher.*)

## PART 1B Adjective + that-clause

We use adjective + *that*-clause to express opinions and feelings.

	Adjective	<i>that</i> -clause
<i>The host was</i>	<b>afraid</b>	<i>(that) the special guests were going to be late.</i>
<i>Tim was</i>	<b>certain</b>	<i>(that) he was not going to give this café a second try.</i>
<i>I am</i>	<b>pleased</b>	<i>(that) the children can cook dinner by themselves.</i>
<i>I found it</i>	<b>unbelievable</b>	<i>(that) you binge-watched an entire season of the TV series in one day.</i>

more examples of adjectives used in this way: **amazing, right, sorry, sure, surprised, worried**

## PART 1C Reporting noun + that-clause

Some reporting nouns are commonly followed by a *that*-clause.

	Noun	<i>that</i> -clause
<i>This law is based on</i>	<b>the belief</b>	<i>that men and women are equal.</i>
<i>The man cannot accept</i>	<b>the fact</b>	<i>that he has been dismissed.</i>



	Noun	<i>that</i> -clause	
<b>The argument</b>	<i>that a teacher should know everything</i>	<i>is weak.</i>	
<b>The possibility</b>	<i>that it will rain tomorrow</i>	<i>is remote.</i>	

more examples of nouns used in this way: **claim, comment, disappointment, idea, statement, suggestion**



More to take away

remote (adj.) = slight



### Exercise 1.1

Complete the sentences with the given phrases. Write the letters (A–F) in the boxes.

1. It was touching
2. The viewers found it interesting
3. The fact
4. There is a possibility
5. It is a misfortune
6. That your personal information has been made public

- A. that the film star will appear in the party.
- B. that the puppies have lost their mother.
- C. that the senior couple were holding hands while walking.
- D. is a mistake.
- E. that Tom always bullies his classmates is unacceptable.
- F. that Tony Stark made Spider-Man a new suit.



### Exercise 1.2

Lucia is reading the reviews about a film. Complete the reviews using the correct form of the given words.

- bizarre    idea    refresh    understand    disappoint  
 seem    shock    remark    rumour    make

#### Critics' Reviews of *Hidden Passion*

It is supposed to be a romantic film. It is (1) shocking that the film starts with an explosion. That the first few scenes are full of actions (2) \_\_\_\_\_ strange.

Jen Lam • Wonder Entertainment

♥ The action scenes are too much for a romantic film but it is (3) \_\_\_\_\_ that the director wants to include more intense moments. The male lead is a spy. The (4) \_\_\_\_\_ that he is always in danger is reasonable.

Chris Kwan • Vain Magazine

♥ It is (5) \_\_\_\_\_ that a new actress was chosen to be the female lead. That she acted realistically (6) \_\_\_\_\_ a big impact on the film.

Ray Li • Today News

♥ Most of the lines are well-written. The camerawork is magnificent too. The (7) \_\_\_\_\_ that this is a shoddy production is unfounded.

Marie Bates • Rolling Rock

♥ The film has a universal appeal. Also, I find it (8) \_\_\_\_\_ that its shooting was completed in three weeks!

Angus Lee • Soda Pop TV

The director is inexperienced. It is (9) \_\_\_\_\_ that he tells the story in an unconventional way. That he has won the Best Director Award is a great (10) \_\_\_\_\_ to many people.

Joe Wright • Tomato Channel



#### More to take away

shoddy (adj.) = made or done badly with not enough care  
 unfounded (adj.) = not based on reasons or facts

## PART 2A ... so + adjective / adverb + that-clause

We can use an adjective or an adverb with *so ... that ...* to talk about the quality of someone or something that causes an effect.

	so	Adjective / Adverb	that-clause
The singer is	so	difficult	that people feel uncomfortable around her.
The singer was	so	careless	that she fell off the stage.
She treats her staff	so	rudely	that half of them have left their jobs.
Her assistant did his job	so	carefully	that no mistake was ever made.

## PART 2B ... such + noun phrase + that-clause

We can also use a noun phrase with *such ... that ...* to explain a result.

Subject	Verb to be	such	Noun phrase	that-clause
The singer	is	such	a bad-tempered boss	that no one works for her for long.
Her interview	was	such	a farce	that she became a laughing stock.

### Reminder!

The two sentence patterns can be used interchangeably.

The joke is **so funny** that the whole class is laughing.  
= It is **such a funny joke** that the whole class is laughing.

Julie is **such a committed person** that she never gives up.  
= Julie is **so committed** that she never gives up.



## Error Diagnosis

We use *so*, but not *such*, with quantifiers like *many* and *much*.

There are such many choices on the menu that it is difficult to select a meal.  
There are **so** many choices on the menu that it is difficult to select a meal.

The BBQ ribs have such much salt that I left half of them uneaten.  
The BBQ ribs have **so** much salt that I left half of them uneaten.



### Exercise 2.1

Rewrite the sentences using the given words.

- The speaker was such a boring one that some of the audience left the talk early. (*so ... that ...*)  
The speaker was so boring that some of the audience left the talk early.
- The school is so famous that even some royal family members are studying there. (*such ... that ...*)



### More to take away

farce (n.) = a ridiculous situation or event  
a laughing stock (n.) = a silly person that people have no respect for

3. Many users complain because the software installation takes a long time. (*so much ... that ...*)  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Mr Wong is so humorous that all his students look forward to his classes. (*such ... that ...*)  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Since they are such talented musicians, they always play to a full house. (*so ... that ...*)  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. The rescue team was struggling to reach the outlying island as the typhoon seriously disrupted the traffic. (*so ... that ...*)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



## Exercise 2.2

Denise is writing about her visit to Central Market. Complete the text using *so ... that ...* or *such ... that ...* with the given words.



### The Exhibitions in the Revitalised Central Market

The reopening of Central Market was **(1)** such an exciting  
event that it attracted many visitors

(*exciting event / it / attract / many visitors*). The exhibition  
called *The Story of Central Market* was educational. It

enabled me to revisit the memories of this iconic living heritage. Besides, the panels and the QR codes  
in the market gave **(2)** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (*information / I / learn a lot more about the features of*  
*the structure*). Also, the other exhibition, STEAM Playground, was **(3)** \_\_\_\_\_

(*interesting event / it / change / my view on creative thinking*). That was a highly interactive exhibition.

The displays were **(4)** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (*engaging / even adults / be / attracted*). One of the most impressive

displays was Robotic Coding. It was **(5)** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (*creative game / visitors / can learn software programming concepts through play*).



## Grammar in Pre-DSE Text Type

Theme: Leisure and entertainment

Yolanda is writing an article about a busker in the US for her school magazine. There are some mistakes. Correct the underlined mistakes and write the correct words in the spaces provided.

Words by Theme



### The Street Saxophonist

Paul is a busker<sup>1</sup> in the US. (1) Because he has become a street saxophonist is actually an unfortunate incident. The business of the bar where Paul performed was (2) such bad that it closed down two months ago. Paul is a passionate<sup>2</sup> saxophonist and he thinks it is (3) necessarily that he plays the saxophone every day. He also thinks it is a good (4) practise that he performs<sup>3</sup> up close with the audience<sup>4</sup>. Therefore, he started busking in the street.

In general, Americans are friendly to buskers. Passers-by often stop to listen to Paul's music. Some of them are so (5) interesting that they stay for a long time. 'Paul's music has so (6) many power that it makes me forget about my stress,' said one supporter. However, some people in the neighbourhood don't enjoy Paul's performance. They find his music so annoying (7) therefore they ask him to leave. Paul is such a (8) determination musician that he is not easily discouraged<sup>5</sup>. He keeps looking for a suitable place to play.

In fact, busking is not an ideal way to earn a living. That some buskers live on very low incomes (9) are sad. His income is so (10) lower that he can only afford<sup>6</sup> one meal a day. It is impossible for him to make ends meet. The situation is so (11) grimly that he has to look for a full-time job finally.

Even if he plays the saxophone full-time again one day, he won't quit busking. To Paul, busking is so (12) enjoy that he wants to do it for the rest of his life.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ That \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_

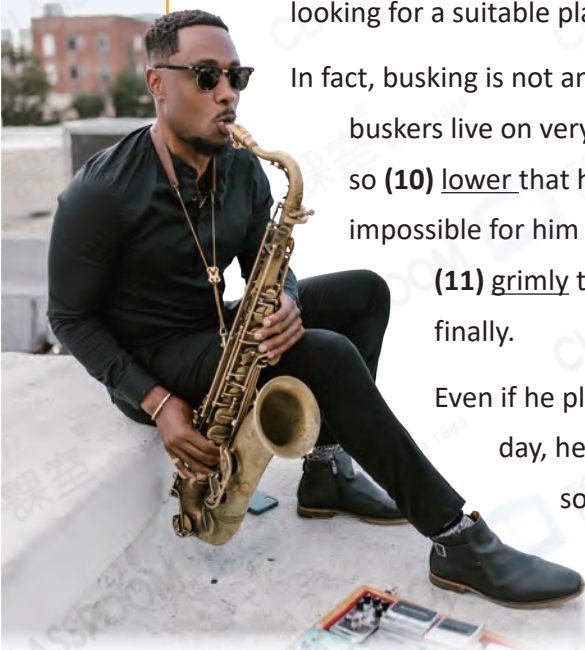
8. \_\_\_\_\_

9. \_\_\_\_\_

10. \_\_\_\_\_

11. \_\_\_\_\_

12. \_\_\_\_\_



### Brain Breaks

Charles Dickens, one of the most important writers of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, wrote that he was 'daily interrupted, harassed, worried, wearied, driven nearly mad by street musicians'.



The *that*-clause can be used in different sentence patterns.

- It is undeniable **that a healthy body is the best defence against diseases.** (*It ... that*-clause)
- I am **disappointed that my favourite TV programme has been cancelled.** (adjective + *that*-clause)
- They didn't like my **suggestion that we should all share the cost.** (reporting noun + *that*-clause)
- The gallery was **so overcrowded that I had to crane my neck to see the paintings.** (... *so* + adjective / adverb + *that*-clause)
- Ken is **such an arrogant person that no one likes him.** (... *such* + noun phrase + *that*-clause)

## Version 1

Katy is a presenter of a travel TV show. She is sharing her experiences in an online magazine. Read the article and pay attention to the underlined sentences.

### Explore the World with Katy

If you have ever wondered what it is like to host a travel show, I am here to tell you all about it.

(1) That being a travel presenter is a low-stress job is a misconception. On the contrary, I need to face unexpected challenges in unfamiliar places.

Despite the challenges, I love my job. (2) It is pleasurable that I can travel to new places while working. (3) It is also a valuable opportunity that I can visit remote countries. (4) After I met many people from various cultures, I began to see the world from a different perspective.

There are plenty of places that are less developed than Hong Kong. (5) Some of them are very poor so they don't have clean water supply. Interestingly, people from those places smile more than people in Hong Kong. (6) I have realised something important—to treasure what we have.

(7) I have travelled to nearly 100 countries; it has opened my mind to new ideas. After tasting many exotic dishes and meeting many extraordinary people, I have noticed the world is much larger than I imagined. The experiences trigger original and creative thoughts. (8) That I learn to view issues and challenges from multiple angles is vital.



## Version 2

Rewrite the underlined sentences in Version 1 based on the instructions.

## Explore the World with Katy

If you have ever wondered what it is like to host a travel show, I am here to tell you all about it. **(1)** It is a misconception that being a travel presenter is a low-stress job \_\_\_\_\_ (It + be + noun + that-clause).

On the contrary, I need to face unexpected challenges in unfamiliar places.

Despite the challenges, I love my job. **(2)** \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ (It + be + noun + that-clause).

**(3)** \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ (reporting noun + that-clause). **(4)** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (so + quantifier + that-clause).

There are plenty of places that are less developed than Hong Kong. **(5)** \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

(so + adjective + that-clause). Interestingly, people from those places smile more than people in Hong Kong. **(6)** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (... it + be + adjective + that-clause).

**(7)** \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ (That ...). After tasting many exotic dishes

and meeting many extraordinary people, I have noticed the world is much larger than I imagined. The experiences trigger original and creative thoughts. **(8)** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (It + be + adjective + that-clause).

