

# A MODERN ENGLISH GRAMMAR

ON HISTORICAL PRINCIPLES

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PART III

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### Interrogative Clauses as Primaries.

**2.411.** Interrogative clauses are dependent clauses corresponding to questions. Questions are of two kinds which I have termed *x-questions* and *nexus-questions*: in the former there is an unknown “quantity” (an *x*) indicated in the question by an interrogative pronoun or adverb; in the latter the speaker calls in question the truth of some “nexus”: is it correct, yes or no, to connect this particular subject with this particular predicate? (See PG 303) Both kinds of question undergo certain grammatical modifications when made into dependent clauses. Persons and tenses are shifted as in other kinds of indirect speech. Instead of the inverted word-order as in “Who is this person”?, “What is he eating?”, “Why am I so sad?” we have the ordinary order with the subject before the verb: “I never discovered who this person was”, “I want to know what he is eating”, “I know not why I am so sad” (Sh Merch I 1.1); consequently the auxiliary *do* is not needed as in many direct questions: “What does he eat?” becomes “I want to know what he eats”.

The distinction between indirect speech (hypotaxis) and direct speech (parataxis) is well brought out in Sh As III 2 200 tell me *who it is* . . . tell me, *who is it* quickly—note here the word *quickly*: Rosaline gets impatient, and therefore uses the more colloquial, direct question instead of a clause.

**2.412.** There is no dependent interrogative clause in such combinations as: What will he do, do you think? | How many copies were sold, did you say? Here the first part cannot be said to be the object of the last verb, for it is impossible to invert the order and say “Do you think, what . . .”, etc. Neither have we two coordinate (paratactic) questions. A few examples from the printed literature:

Congreve 236 What do they mean, do you know? |  
 Poe 255 How much was the reward, did you say? |  
 Mered EH 31 At what time shall we arrive, may I ask, do you think?

Note that there is another way of knitting two such questions together: "When do you think we shall arrive?" Here the second question is made dependent, as shown by the word-order; but the interrogative word, which logically belongs to the second verb, is placed with the first. Similar concatenations are very frequent in relative clauses, see 10 7 and 10 8

**2.42.** The word-order of the direct question is generally retained in the usual phrase "(We ran out to see) *what was the matter*", but this is due to special reasons (see 18. 53) and is therefore not exactly analogous to the occasional use of the word-order, verb before subject, in dependent interrogative clauses. This may sometimes be due to the same causes which produce the identical word-order in statements (as in Sh Merch I 1 18 Plucking the grasse to see where sits the winde—cp Here sits the wind), sometimes to the retention of the form of the direct question (as in Sh Merch III 2.63 Tell me where is fancie bred | D<sub>1</sub> D 357 I considered what could I do—which might just as well have been written: "Tell me: Where is fancy bred?" and "I considered: What could I do?"). See below on the corresponding phenomenon in nexus-questions (2 48)

In the earlier stages of the language the subordination of an interrogative clause was sometimes indicated by the insertion of *that* as in other clauses Ch LGW 1449 And chees what folk that thou wilt with thee take | 1d MP 3 1183 I bethoghte me what wo And sorwe that I suffred tho | Caxton R 67 men shal wel knowe who that I am

**2.43.** An interrogative clause may be a primary either as the subject, as the object of a verb, or as the object of a preposition.

Interrogative clauses are not very frequent as subjects of sentences. I can find no mention of this matter in any of the grammars I have consulted. First we have examples of clauses with introductory pronouns or adverbs (*x*-questions):

*Who can have done it* is a riddle to me | Dreiser F 226  
*What to do* was beyond him | Wells Und. F. V 2 *Which*

*side may first drop exhausted now*, will hardly change the supreme fact | Bennett L 146 *Why they don't make 'em unload somewhere else* beats me | Oppenheim People's Man 56 *Where you are* is nothing to me | Kaye Smith T 259 *Wherein his terror lay* might not be easy to guess | Wells TM 63 *But how it got there* was a different problem | *Why she should come here at all* puzzles (beats, licks) me. Note the plural of the verb, because there are virtually three clauses, in Birrell Ob 11 *how men laughed, cried, swore*, were all of huge interest to Carlyle.

If the clause is not placed first, it has to be represented by *it*: *It does not interest me in the least who will be Prime Minister in fifty years* | Kaye Smith T 288 *it mattered little who filled the town* as long as it was full — *It* would be required nowadays in "What the devil does it signify how you get off?", but Sheridan (303) writes without *does*: *What the devil signifies how you get off.*

**2.44.** If a dependent nexus-question is to be the subject of a sentence, the conjunction *whether* has to be used, because *if* in that position would easily be taken to be the conjunction of condition:

*Whether this was the true explanation* did not concern him | Swift T 5 *Whether the work received his last hand, or whether he intended to fill up the defective places*, is like to remain a secret | D1 H 189 *But whether she ever tried or no*, lay hidden in her own closed heart | Seeley E 4 *Whether it would always go on brightening, or whether, like the physical day, it would pass again into afternoon and evening, or whether it would come to an end by a sudden eclipse*, all this was left in obscurity

There is a curiously muddled expression in Sh Lr IV 634 *Why I do trifle thus with his disparage*, Is done to cure it (the reason why I . . . is that I want to cure it) This reminds one of the modern colloquialism which makes a clause with *because* the subject of a sentence Tarkington F 187 *Just because I'm here now* doesn't mean I didn't go, does it? *Because a person is in China right now* wouldn't have to mean he'd never been in South America, would it? | Walpole GM 221 *Because you're blind and know nothing of what goes on under your nose* is no reason that

other people's sight should be blinded too | London M 260 *Because I say Republicans are stupid*, does not make me a Socialist Note *just* as with dependent questions, in Ade A 45 Just because a fellow calls on a girl is no sign that she likes him *Why* and *because* combined Maxwell EG 420 he was implying that *why* he knew she had kept the promise was *because* he had been seeing Arnold — Not infrequently in this case the clause is represented afterwards by *that* Troll B 360 But *because he leaves the palace*, that is no reason why he should get into the deanery | Wells V 262 *Because your nerves were exposed* that was no excuse for my touching them | Mackenzie PR 290 *Because I don't write to him*, that is no reason why he shouldn't write to Mr Ricketts — These clauses with *because* are really disguised content-clauses

**2.451.** An interrogative clause is very often the object of a verb. Examples of x-questions:

Sh Wiv III 3 192 your husband askt *who was in the basket* | I should like to know *what he did, and why and how he did it* | I don't see *where that could have been* | he could not tell (decide) *which way to go, nor what to do*: frequently thus with semi-articulate clauses Cp also D<sub>1</sub> Do 193 Polly, who had passed heaven knows *how many* sleepless nights | Carlyle Rem 1.275 a man with nobody knows *how much* brains.

**2.452.** The clause is the object of a phrase which comes to mean the same thing as 'not to know' (cf below on omission of prepositions 2 7):

Defoe R 167 I was now at a great loss *which way to get home* | Bennett GS 96 She was at a loss *what to do* | Doyle M 150 *what that something may be* I give you my word that I have no more idea than you have | Stevenson T 155 they were at their wits' end *what to do* | Doyle Sh 3 86 She was at her wits' end *what to do*.

**2.46.** A dependent nexus-question used as the object of a verb may in Modern English have one of three forms, with *if*, with *whether* and with inverted word-order and no conjunction.

First, with *if*: Sh Merch II 7 10 How shall I know *if I doe choose the right?*

This use of *if* goes back to OE times (*gif*), and is in fact a very natural development, as there are many combinations in which it is hardly possible to distinguish between

a conditional and an interrogative clause, for instance "I hope you will tell me if you can come". We therefore see the same connexion between conditional clause and dependent question in other languages as well, Dan jeg veed ikke *om* . . ., G. ich weiß nicht *ob* . . . (*ob* in the older language was used for a condition, where now *wenn* is said), It. non so *se* . . ., Fr. je ne sais pas *si* . . . How natural is the transition between the two ideas may be seen from the fact that the great French lexicographers, Littré and Darmesteter, do not at all distinguish the two uses.

On the other hand this use of *if* is hardly possible except after the verb: in the beginning of a sentence "If he can come" would suggest a condition only, and we must therefore say "Whether he can come, I very much doubt". But then, this position of the interrogative clause is not very frequent.

Both uses of *if* are found together in By DJ 5.30 I wonder *if* (interr.) his appetite was good? Or *if* it were (cond., note the subjunctive), *if* (interr.) also his digestion? | Mackenzie S 1.315 I wonder, *if* you didn't know I was your brother, *if* we should have a sort of intuition about it | Kaye Smith T 81 He wondered, *if* (interr.) Lady Cockstreet saw his emotion, and *if* (cond.) she did whether (N.B.) she realized its cause | Maxwell F 184 I wonder *if* (interr.) you'll ever understand why people get fond of you—or *if* (cond.) you did know, whether (N.B.) you would lose some of your strength with us.

In former times *and* (in mod eds. written *an*) might be used like *if* to introduce an interrogative clause: BJO 3.152 she asks me *an* I will wear her gown.

**2.471.** *Whether* as an interrogative adverb or conjunction is developed from its use as a pronoun meaning 'which of two', see II 7 74 Its original, and still very frequent, use is in disjunctive questions, followed by *or*, or very often by *or whether*; but it is also very often used where the alternative possibility is not expressed, as in Swift 3.191 asking whether I were now settled for life.

**2.472.** As above, 2.452, the object clause need not be governed by a transitive verb, as a phrase may have the same meaning: I *have no idea* whether he'll be able to come. Cp also D<sub>1</sub> D 523 She had been *undecided*, on leaving Dover, whether or no to give the finishing touch to that renunciation.

**2.48.** The third way in which such interrogative clauses may be formed, is by keeping the inverted order of a direct question, though the person and tense may be shifted; there is no introductory conjunction This form does not seem to be at all common before the middle of the nineteenth century: it is now extremely frequent in colloquial speech and in novels, but is not universally recognized by theorists. Storm, EPh 771 says: "Der gebrauch des direkten statt des abhängigen fragesatzes hat etwas storendes [?] und wird am besten vermieden". In Funk & Wagnalls' Dictionary we read under "Faulty Diction": "the mixture of direct and indirect is also wrong; as, 'he asked me would I go'".

Examples: Defoe Rox 280 I put in questions two or three times of how handsome she was, and was she really so fine a woman as they talked of, and the like | D<sub>1</sub> D 211 I was wondering could she be Dr Strong's son's wife, or could she be Mrs. Dr. Strong | ib 317 she whispered something, and asked was that enough | id Do 9 I put the question, was there anybody there that they thought would suit? | Thack E 1 2 I wonder shall History ever pull off her periwig and cease to be court-ridden? | Mrs Carlyle F 3.23 I went into Mr Gigner's shop and inquired was anything the matter | Bronte V 142 May I inquire did she ever speak of me to you? | GE M 1 252 he had meant to imply, would she love him as well in spite of his deformity | Mrs Browning A 30 careless did it fit or no | Hardy L 185 Ned put his flat and final question, would she marry him, then and there | Shaw 1 119 I asked him wasn't he coming (very frequent in Shaw) | Wilde D 15 I wonder will you understand me? | Galsworthy P 2 22 Please Miss, the Missis says will you and Mr. Ernest please to move your things.

In most cases writers do not put any comma before clauses of this kind, thus implying that there is no pause, and that the tone goes on in the same way as if *whether* or *if* had been used. The question mark at the end of the clause is omitted as often as not, but the rise in tone at the end of the clause will generally not be as marked as in a direct question. One of the reasons why this construction has become so common is probably the feeling that *whether* is rather stiff, and that *if* may sometimes be mistaken for the conditional conjunction.

The construction is found in connexion with the conditional *if* in D1 Do 218 Florence began to think, if she were to fall ill, if she were to fade like her dear brother, would he then know that she had loved him (Note the continuation with a content-clause Yes, she thought if she were dying, he would relent) | Williamson P 237 I fear we have not the full sympathy of Lord Lane — If you mean, will I do anything to keep the two apart, I confess you haven't

**2.4a.** Sometimes a clause of this kind is placed parallel to other clauses or some other object: D1 F 495 In answer to the doctor's inquiry how did it happen, and was any one to blame, Tom gives his verdict | Benson D 102 Last night he woke me up about half-past ten, to say that he had heard it cough several times, and did I think it was the whooping cough | Hope D 43 she asked her next door neighbour if he knew Lady Mickleham by sight, and had he seen her lately? | Wells T 39 she asked him more about Millie, and was she very lovely, and so on.

This is particularly frequent in messages like the following: D1 D 155 I was sent up to Captain Hopkins with Mr. Micawber's compliments, and I was his young friend, and would Captain Hopkins lend me a knife and fork | Benson D 154 this led to his offering to go himself, and would Dodo come with him? | Doyle M 50 a note came up to the Dad saying that Mrs. A's servant was ill, and would he come at once | Mered EH 389 the carriage came for me, sir, in the afternoon, with your compliments, and would I come.

Cp also Locke GP 107 I'm to say *that, won't* the ladies have the sweet charity—those were his words—to drink their coffee with him upstairs?



### Interrogative Clauses after Prepositions.

**2.51.** An interrogative clause as the object of a preposition is found in the thirteenth century in Orrm (2 326 I se33de pær summ del off-hu Johaness Lerrnng-cnihttes Token . . ), possibly under the influence of Danish usage, but otherwise it does not seem to occur till the end of the 17th century, and is not at all common till the 19th: even now, many purists object to such combinations and avoid them either by omitting the preposition (see below 2.7) or by using other turns.

In Sh Lr III 1 37 (quarto) "making iust report of how vnnaturall and bemadding sorrow The King hath cause to plaine" of must not be referred to *report*, but to *plam* (= complain) and thus does not govern the whole clause Sh Tp III 1 52 "how features are abroad I am skillesse of" is slightly different from the examples given below, because *skillesse of* comes after the clause when Shakespeare framed the beginning, he probably had not yet this expression in his mind, but thought of something like "I know not" —The corresponding phenomenon is very frequent indeed in Scandinavian languages, but in German and Dutch it is in such cases necessary to insert a representative adverb: *davon wie, er van hoe* . I find in Spanish, Galdós, Doña Perfecta 131, "disertaban sobre cuales eran los mejores burros". The construction thus seems to have developed independently in various languages, as is quite natural considering that a clause of this description means much the same thing as might have been expressed by a substantive (how little we know = our ignorance; how he worked = his manner of working, etc): no wonder therefore that the construction with a preposition should be extended from nouns to clauses. As the construction is not generally recognized, I shall give a good many examples

**2.52.** Examples with *of*: Milton A 1 (see below 2 54) | Swift (quoted Bøgholm B 52) they gave hints of who and who's together | Defoe R 331 some information . . of what was become of my partner | Southey L 352 neither he nor Murray are aware of how much depends upon the choice | Shelley PW 2 178 we grow dizzy to look down the dark abyss of how little we know | Peacock M 257 I have not the most distant notion of what is the matter | Lang E 107 Walter Scott's account of how he worked | Stevenson VP 160 we have no idea of what death is | ib 173 to be truly happy is a question of how we begin and not of how we

end, of what we want and not of what we have | Doyle S 2.112 I thought of the fifty guineas, and of how very useful they would be to me | Mered E 322 proof of how well he had disguised himself | Hardy F 159 without any idea of who it was to be | Dickinson S 7 he will give you the clearest possible account of why he is a Liberal | Galsw D 138 he told no one of where he had been | id Ca 817 the daily problem of how to get a job, and of why he had lost the one he had | Lawrence L 246 Leaving aside the question of whether you love me or I love you.

**2.5s.** With other prepositions:

*about*: Bunyan P 58 my thoughts wax warm about whither I am going | GE A 434 did Seth say anything to thee about when he was coming? | Doyle S 4.176 have you formed any theory about how that bell rang? | id M 145 I want to tell you about how the practice has been going on | Shaw StJ 100 I shall not fuss about how the trick has been done | Walpole C 461 Didn't mother say anything about when she'd be in?

*at*: Wells TM 111 I could make only the vaguest guesses at what they [the machines] were for | NP Look at what education has done for the Indians.

*by*: Norris O 531 I never said he wasn't dead. I only said you couldn't always tell by whether his heart beat or not.

*from*: Wilde In 193 showing us the whole nature and life of the man, from what school of philosophy he affected, down to what horses he backed on the turf.

*in*: Shelley L 596 a very absurd interest in who is to be its next possessor.

*on (upon)*: Goldsm 653 they are in actual consultation upon what's for supper | NP '23 there is so little agreement upon what is to take its place (i. e. of Materialism) | (frequent after *depend*): Troll O 208 It must depend on how far the husband had been in fault.

*over*: Galsw D 15 she had brooded over how to make an end | Dane First the Bl. 164 to sit there and brood over whether you 're any good.

*to* (cf above *from*, very frequent *as to*): Tylor A 142 any one who will attend to how English words run together | Benson D 52 the doubt occurred as to whether any of it was genuine.

*with*: Lounsbury Ch 3.222 those who are best acquainted with how much has been accomplished are the most painfully aware of how much still remains to be accomplished | Doyle M 35 Scotland was to resound with how he had resuscitated me | Grattan L 240 we are not here concerned with the reality or non-reality of the action itself, but with whether the speaker presents it as an actuality or not

It will be seen that the great majority of these clauses begin with an interrogatory pronoun or adverb (x-questions), but a few with *whether* (nexus-question) and none with *if* or without any interrogative word. In loose colloquial speech *if* clauses are beginning to be used after prepositions, Mackenzie writes, C 133 What about if I get married? | ib 357 you grumble sometimes, but how about if you was like me? Here, however, *if* is conditional rather than interrogative.

**2.54.** In all these cases the object of the preposition is the whole clause and not the one part of it that follows immediately after the preposition. This is seen most clearly when we find that it is possible to have two prepositions, one governing the whole clause and the other (usually placed at the end) governing the interrogative pronoun and thus itself forming part of the dependent clause. Examples: M<sub>1</sub> A 1 the thought *of* whom it hath recourse *to* | Cowper L 1.34 he was questioned *about* what he was musing *on* | Sheridan 239 I never had the least idea *of* what you charge me *with* | Shelley L 887 I tremble to think *of* what poor Emilia is destined *to* | Bronte J 217 she had informed them *of* what they most wished *for* | GE M 1 88 that would depend *on* what they didn't like him *for* | Butler Er 127 take a juster view *of* what physical obliquity proceeds *from* (Wells TM 111 quoted 2.53) | Allen W 81 it is only a question *of with* whom I shall do so.

Note Stevenson B 2 but for whom they were to fight, and of where the battle was expected, Dick knew nothing. Here the writer uses *of* only in the second clause, avoiding it in the first on account of the other preposition *for*

Occasionally one preposition does duty for two identical ones (by haplogy) Maxwell EG 261 quite careless as to the amount of work that she did or as *to* what dark or even dangerous places the work led her | Jenkins B 219 Bundle's glance left no doubt in Mr. Wunch's mind as *to* whom he referred

**2.5s.** Sometimes the clause is put first, and then the preposition comes behind, joined to the verb: Ru CWO 29 What ought to be done with them, we'll *talk of* another time. Cp 2.2s and Sh Tp, above, 2 5i.

### Clauses of Wonder.

**2.6i.** Clauses of wonder may be the object of a verb in the same way as interrogative clauses, which they resemble: Aust P 16 everybody said how well she looked | Carlyle F 4.220 you can fancy what two or three days I had | Bennett RS 263 He thought how odd it was | Mackenzie C 80 Mrs. Raeburn thought to herself as she left the room, how strange children were.

**2.6s.** Clauses of wonder differ from interrogative clauses in requiring the indefinite article between the interrogative word and a substantive in the singular (if this is not a mass-word, II 5.213): (Ch Parl 564 herkeneth which a reson I shall bringe) | Sh Hml III 2 380 Why looke you now, how vnworthy a thing you make of me | id Tp I 2.252 Do'st thou forget From what a torment I did free thee? | Bunyan P 89 you cannot think what a flattering tongue she had | Southey L 68 when he is gone, nobody will believe what a mind goes with him | D<sub>1</sub> D 356 I know what a friendly heart you've got | Thack N 555 you may fancy with what a panic it filled the good lady | GE SM 35 everybody was saying what a handsome couple he and Miss Nancy would make! | Bennett W 1.100 every guest thought what an excellent thing it was that Banes should be dead | Rose

Macaulay P 4 she thought what a nice novel they would make.

**2.6s.** This difference between a clause of wonder and an interrogative clause is not always clearly marked; one might perhaps have expected *what fate* instead of *what a fate* in Thack E 2.312 she escaped to France, to what a fate I disdain to tell. *What a* expresses a high degree of some quality (mentioned or understood), see, for instance Dickinson S 109 You don't understand, what a difficult position I am in | Quiller Couch M 253 it crossed his mind what a fool he had been and what a chance he had missed.

**2.6a.** A clause of wonder may also sometimes be the object of a preposition: London A 102 I blush to think of what fools we were in those days | Finemore Famous Engl. 2.195 he soon gave proof of what a wonderful leader he was

**2.6s.** It should be noted that very frequently expressions of wonder, though to all intents and purposes independent sentences, have the same word-order as dependent clauses, for instance:

Galsw P 2 7 How people can be such fools! (different from the question: how can people . . .) | Kipl K 375 How I shall laugh with the Colonel! (Here *how* indicates a degree; in "How shall I laugh" as a real question *how* would refer to the manner)

Such expressions originate in incomplete utterances: the speaker pulls up before saying the main clause. . . I do not understand (aposiopesis).

### No Preposition before a Clause.

**2.7i.** The general feeling that clauses governed by prepositions are clumsy constructions leads pretty often to the omission of a preposition which would be indispensable before a substantive. The term here used, "omission", should not be taken in the historical sense as implying that a preposition was formerly used in such cases which has

later fallen away: the tendency is rather in the opposite direction, of using prepositions more and more before clauses. The omission is the more natural, because in many cases there are related or synonymous expressions which require no preposition: *is not ignorant = knows, forgetful = forgetting, gave an account = told, etc.*

**2.7<sub>2</sub>.** *Of* omitted: Sh Gent I 3.25 I thinke your lordship is not ignorant How his companion . . . Attends the Emperor | Bacon A 8 in expectation what would be done with us | Mi PL 4 54 Forgetful what from him I still receive | Defoe R 2 128 they gave me an account how many ways they strove | ib 125 they put one another in mind that there was a God | Swift 3 101 he seemed to be wholly ignorant what they were | Cowper L 1.185 she might become sensible in a few days that she had acted hastily | Troll B 166 surprised and ignorant what the lady alluded to | Wells Fm 178 I was rashly sanguine that we should recover the sphere | Hope D 15 in future I am going to be careful what I do | Ru Sel 1.245 reckless what comes of it | Kipl L 273 take care your throat's not cut | Mackenzie C 36 I have my own idea what's good for Jenny (cf above 2 3<sub>6</sub>) | I am not sure this is right = That this is right, I am not sure.

It will be seen that the omission occurs equally before content-clauses with and without *that* and before dependent questions; parallel to the latter we find Doyle M 122 you've no idea the trouble I had to get him in [= no idea what trouble I had, or = you don't know the trouble I had].

Note the double construction in Goldsm V 2 139 And are you *sure of* all this, are you *sure that* nothing ill has befallen my boy?

**2.7<sub>3</sub>.** Other prepositions omitted.

*For*: Kipl L 105 it is outside my business to care what people say | Herrick M 218 perhaps she cares more what folks say than I do | he is responsible that the letter is delivered.

*On*: Defoe M 118 depending that he would say nothing | Bennett C 2.280 it all depends how you handle him (thus

often with *depend*) | id A 228 you might rely he would not hoard it up | Bennett T 27 I insisted he should come up with us | Mackenzie C 27 she set up a commotion of tears because she insisted the ladies behind the counter were laughing at her | id S 715 I'm frightfully keen you should marry Stella.

*About:* Lamb E 2.VI he gave himself little concern what he uttered, and in whose presence | Ru S 171 they quarrelled violently which pieces they would have.

*To,* cf above 2 27: Sh Hml I 3.59 And these few precepts in thy memory *See* thou character | Stev JHF 82 I shall make it my business to see you are no loser | Locke FS 328 I'll see nothing unpleasant happens. Cf also Macaulay H 1.132 they would not *consent* that he should assume the regal title.

### Chapter III.

#### Relative Clauses as Primaries.

**3.1.** A relative clause can be employed as a primary in the following three positions.

First, as the subject of a sentence, for instance:

*Who steals my purse,* steals trash (Sh Oth III 3.157).

*Whoever says so* is a liar.

*What you say* is quite true.

*What money I have* is at your disposal (A).

*Whatever I get* is at your disposal.

Second, as the object of a verb:

You may marry *whom you choose*.

You may take *which of the apples you like*.

He wants to shoot *whoever comes near him*.

He will take *what you offer him*.

She will give you *what money she has* (A).

He will take *whatever comes his way*.

She will eat *whatever sweets* you give her (A).