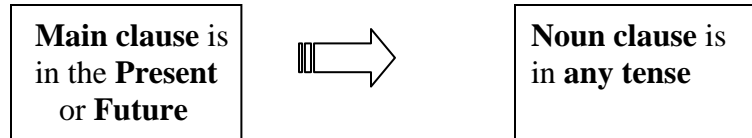


Sequence of Tenses

The verb in the introductory or main clause controls the tense of the verb in the noun clause.

Rule 1: *If the main clause is in the present or future, then the verb in the noun clause can be in any tense.*



Examples: *The prime ministers **agree** that the global warming **is** a serious world problem.*

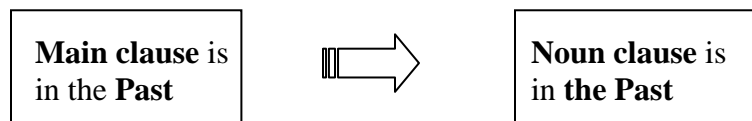
*They **hope** that all nations **will be** responsible for solving this serious problem.*

*Scientists **believe** that atmospheric warming **has** already **begun**.*

*Measurements **have indicated** that the average temperature on the earth **has risen** in the past one hundred years.*

*Further research **will prove** that carbon dioxide **is** largely responsible.*

Rule 2: *If the main clause is in the past tense, the verb in the noun clause is usually in the past form except for the cases when the noun clause reports a general truth.*



Examples: *The prime ministers **agreed** that the global warming **was** a serious world problem.*

*They **hoped** that all nations **would be** responsible for solving this serious problem.*

*Scientists **believed** that atmospheric warming **had** already **begun**.*

*Measurements **indicated** that the average temperature on the earth **has risen** in the past one hundred years.*

*Further research **proved** that carbon dioxide **was** largely responsible.*

Exception: *We knew that New York is bigger than London.
(The noun clause reports a general truth.)*