**Complement clause**

A complement clause is a clause introduced by a complementizer like that or whether. A complement clause is attached to a preceding noun, adjective or verb. In the sentence ‘The news that she was dead shocked us all’, ‘that she was dead’ is a noun complement clause attached to the noun *news*. In ‘I am sure that she is coming’, ‘that she is coming’ is an adjective-complement clause attached to the adjective *sure*.

In ‘My mother suggested that I should consult a doctor’, ‘that I should consult a doctor’ is a verb-complement clause attached to the verb *suggested*.

In some cases the complementizer may be optionally omitted.

I am sure she is coming. OR I am sure that she is coming.
My mother suggested I should consult a doctor. OR My mother suggested that I should consult a doctor.
Note that a noun-complement clause is different from a relative clause, even though the two often look similar.

**Complementizer**

The label complementizer refers to that part of speech which includes the words which introduce complement clauses. Examples are that and whether. If is also a complementizer when it means whether.

She said that she wasn’t coming.
I don’t know whether she will come.
She asked me if I was coming.