

# ADJECTIVE CLAUSES

## English Language Learner



GRAMMAR

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### DEFINITION

A dependent clause that functions as an adjective.

Modifies a noun or phrase by providing more information about a noun or phrase (**antecedent**).

Begins with a subordinator (relative pronoun or relative adverb) and requires a subject and a verb.

Used in complex sentences.

May not use a comma (restrictive) OR may use a comma (nonrestrictive).

### MARKERS TO INDICATE AN ADJECTIVE CLAUSE

Relative pronouns – *who, whom, whose, that*

Relative adverbs – *when, where*

### POSITION/ LOCATION

- The **adjective clause** provides more information about **the antecedent**.
- An adjective clause should come right after its antecedent.
- It often occurs in the middle of a sentence.
- When it occurs in the middle, part of the independent clause precedes it and the rest of the independent clause follows it.

#### Examples

The **questions that were asked** were troubling.

The **man who just left** is running for mayor.

**El Nino which originates in the Southern Hemisphere** affects North America's weather patterns.

**Physicians who make home visits** are a vanishing breed.

The hurricane destroyed many **roadways that are essential**.

The storm impacted **schools which were flooded**.

The child forgot the **present that he made for his teacher** because he was in a rush leaving his home.

### RESTRICTIVE OR NONRESTRICTIVE ADJECTIVE CLAUSES

RESTRICTIVE	NONRESTRICTIVE
A clause that is necessary to comprehend the <b>antecedent</b> . NO commas	Clause that is NOT necessary to comprehend the <b>antecedent</b> . It provides extra information/optional information about the antecedent.  USES commas

#### Examples

#### RESTRICTIVE ADJECTIVE CLAUSE

- *More consumers are buying **vehicles that use electricity**.*

#### NONRESTRICTIVE ADJECTIVE CLAUSE

- ***The Nissan Leaf, which was introduced in 2010**, is an all-electric car.*

### KINDS OF ADJECTIVE CLAUSES

#### (1) RELATIVE PRONOUN AS SUBJECT

RESTRICTIVE	NONRESTRICTIVE (uses a comma)
People: <i>who, that</i>	People: <i>who</i>
Animals & Things: <i>that</i>	Animals & Things: <i>which</i>

#### Examples

- *I like the **people who are friendly**.*
- *I like the **people that are friendly**.*
- *I like **classes that are challenging**.*
- ***Celine Dion, who is Canadian**, is performing tonight.*
- *I enjoy **St. John's, which is in Newfoundland**.*

**(2) RELATIVE PRONOUN AS OBJECT**

RESTRICTIVE	NONRESTRICTIVE (uses a comma)
People: <i>whom, that, Ø</i>	People: <i>whom</i>
Animals & Things: <i>that, Ø</i>	Animals & Things: <i>which</i>

Examples

- The **man** whom we saw is my teacher.
- The **man** that we saw is my teacher.
- The **man** we saw is my teacher.
- I enjoyed the **movie** which we saw last night.
- I enjoyed the **movie** that we saw last night.
- I enjoyed the **movie** we saw last night.
- The **East Coast Trail**, which I hike, is looking for help.
- The music class was instructed by **Mary**, whom he met.

**(3) POSSESSIVE ADJECTIVE CLAUSE**

RESTRICTIVE	NONRESTRICTIVE (uses a comma)
People: whose	People: whose
Animals & Things: whose	Animals & Things: whose
subject position OR object position	

Examples

Subject Position:

- She takes care of **two children** whose mother is dead.
- An orphan is a **child** whose parents are dead.
- The **East Coast Trail**, whose signs are locally made, is looking for volunteers to clean the trails.
- The music class was instructed by **Mary**, whose family lives in Europe.

Object Position:

- The **poet** whose poems we have been reading visited our school.
- I read the **article** whose publisher I met Tuesday.
- The music class was instructed by **Mary**, whose family we visited in Europe.
- Tom hiked with his **dog**, whose first owner I know.

**(4) RELATIVE PRONOUN AS OBJECT OF PREPOSITION**

RESTRICTIVE	NONRESTRICTIVE (uses a comma)
People: <i>whom, that, Ø</i>	People: <i>whom</i>
Animals & Things: <i>which, that, Ø</i>	Animals & Things: <i>which</i>
Preposition (for, with, to ,in) + subordinator	
<u>Formal usage</u> will place the preposition before the relative pronoun.	
<u>Informal usage</u> will place the preposition at the end of the adjective clause.	

Examples

- The **waiter** about whom customers had complained was fired. [formal]
- The **address** to which we had sent the letter was wrong. [formal]
- The **article** which you are referring to is no longer available. [informal]
- The **Loran scholarship**, for which is applied is nationwide. [formal]
- The **Loran scholarship**, which I applied for, is nationwide. [informal]

**(5) ADJECTIVE CLAUSE OF QUANTITY**

NONRESTRICTIVE (uses a comma)
People: <i>some of whom, all of whom, each of whom, both of whom ...</i>
Animals & Things: <i>some of which, all of which, each of which, both of which...</i>

Examples

- The pilot provided **two options**, both of which were appropriate.
- The pilot provided **two options**, each of which I respected.
- The **top students**, all of whom graduated with honours, received substantial scholarships.
- The committee received **many contributions**, all of which were locally made.

**(6) ADJECTIVE CLAUSE OF QUALITY**

NONRESTRICTIVE (uses a comma)
People: <i>the best of whom, the oldest of whom, the tallest of whom, the most important of whom ...</i>
Animals & Things: <i>the best of which, the oldest of which, the tallest of which, the most important of which...</i>
Subject OR object position

Examples:

Subject Position

- We visited **numerous castles** in Europe, the oldest of which is located on an island.
- The committee received **many volunteers**, the best of whom came from the community.

Object Position

- The instructor recommended **multiple journals**, the most important of which he put on reserve in the library
- The **top students**, the oldest of whom I met, received substantial scholarships.



**(7) ADJECTIVE CLAUSE OF TIME**

RESTRICTIVE	NONRESTRICTIVE (uses a comma)
when	when

Examples

- June is the **month** when the most weddings take place.
- The lives of many Newfoundlanders changed **on April 1, 1949**, when Newfoundland joined Canada.

**(8) ADJECTIVE CLAUSE OF PLACE**

RESTRICTIVE	NONRESTRICTIVE (uses a comma)
where	where
The relative pronouns which, that, or Ø and a preposition are also options.	

Examples

- Let's walk to the **park** where we can sit and relax.
- **St. John's**, where many Portuguese fishing boats docked, has a special affiliation with Portugal

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