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 <u>adjective clause</u> provides more information about <u>the antecedent</u>.
- 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 antecedent . NO commas	Clause that is NOT necessary to comprehend the antecedent. 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: who, that	People: who
Animals & Things: that	Animals & Things: which

Examples

- I like the people who are friendly.
- I like the people that are friendly.
- I like classes that are challenging.
- o 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: whom, that, Ø	People: whom
Animals & Things: that, Ø	Animals & Things: which

Examples

- The man whom we saw is my teacher.
- o The man that we saw is my teacher.
- o 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.
- o 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.
- o 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 | know.

(4) RELATIVE PRONOUN AS OBJECT OF PREPOSITION

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

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 <u>Loran scholarship</u>, <u>which I applied for</u>, is nationwide. [informal]

(5) ADJECTIVE CLAUSE OF QUANTITY

NONRESTRICTIVE (uses a comma)

People: some of whom, all of whom, each of whom, both of whom ...

Animals & Things: some of which, all of which, each of which, both of which...

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, <u>all of</u> which were locally made.

(6) ADJECTIVE CLAUSE OF QUALITY

NONRESTRICTIVE (uses a comma)

People: the best of whom, the oldest of whom, the tallest of whom, the most important of whom ...

Animals & Things: the best of which, the oldest of which, the tallest of which, the most important of which...

Subject OR object position

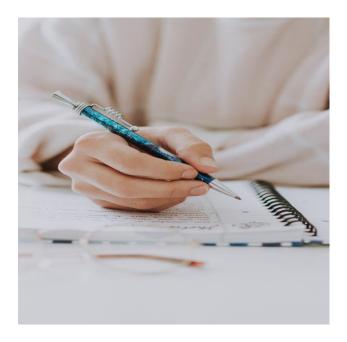
Examples:

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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