

Adjective and Adverb Clauses

Reteaching

An **adjective clause** is a subordinate clause that is used as an adjective to modify a noun or pronoun. Like adjectives, adjective clauses answer the questions *which one, what kind, how much, or how many*. They are introduced by a **relative pronoun** (such as *that, who, whom, whose, and which*) or a **relative adverb** (such as *when, where, and why*).

The White House, where every president since 1800 has lived, is our most famous residence. (*Where* is the White House?)

John Adams was the president who first lived there. (*Which* president?)

An **essential, or restrictive, clause** provides information that is necessary to identify the preceding noun or pronoun. A **nonessential, or nonrestrictive, clause** provides additional, but not necessary, information about a noun or pronoun in a sentence where the meaning is already clear. Use commas to set off a nonessential clause.

A structure that honors our first president is the Washington Monument. (essential)

The monument, which stands 555 feet tall, is an imposing landmark. (nonessential)

When choosing between *that* and *which*, use *that* to introduce essential clauses and *which* to introduce nonessential clauses.

An **adverb clause** is a subordinate clause that is used as an adverb to modify a verb, adjective, or adverb.

I visit the United States Capitol whenever I am in Washington, D.C. (*When* do I visit? Modifies verb.)

The building is more impressive than I imagined. (*How* impressive? Modifies adjective.)

Adverb clauses are usually introduced by **subordinating conjunctions** such as these:

after	because	if	than	until	where
although	before	since	though	when	wherever
as	even though	so	unless	whenever	while

Identifying Adjective and Adverb Clauses

Underline once the adjective or adverb clause. Underline twice the word it modifies.

1. The poet T.S. Eliot, who was born in the United States, became a British subject.
2. After Bob arrived in Madrid, he began to study art.
3. The person whose name heads the list had to drop out of the race.
4. Ed gave the package to his father, who will mail it tomorrow.
5. Mountain gorillas, which are an endangered species, live only in Africa.
6. Before the snow began, we stacked two cords of firewood.
7. The man whom you met is the theater manager.
8. Because that clerk was so helpful, I praised her to the store manager.
9. The cross-country team is curious about the course that it will run.
10. Children should use car safety seats until they are four years old.

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More Practice

A. Identifying Adjective and Adverb Clauses and Introductory Words

In each sentence, underline the adjective or adverb clause once. Underline the word modified twice. On the line, write the relative pronoun or relative adverb that introduces the adjective clause or the subordinating conjunction that introduces the adverb clause.

EXAMPLE Throw the fruit that spoiled into the compost heap. that

1. Lesotho is an African country that is surrounded by another country. _____
2. I read "The Secret Sharer" by Joseph Conrad, who was born in Poland. _____
3. The movie was beginning as George bought our tickets. _____
4. What was the date when Neil Armstrong stepped on the moon? _____
5. Whenever you make a promise, you must keep it! _____
6. You may keep the pot of gold if you answer three questions correctly. _____
7. Hawaii is a state that is made up of several islands. _____
8. The music that you heard was composed by our group. _____
9. Marlene can skate better than many professional skaters can. _____
10. Something that always bothers me is a large crowd. _____

B. Identifying Essential Clauses

Underline the adjective clause in each of the following sentences. Write **ESS** on the line to the right if the clause is an essential adjective clause. Write **NON** if it is a nonessential clause. Insert commas where they are needed.

1. The Galapagos Islands are known as the place where giant tortoises are found. _____
2. The legend about this waterfall is one that has never been authenticated. _____
3. Beaver tail which I have never tried is regarded as a delicacy. _____
4. May gave the key to her mother who opened the door. _____
5. The winner of the essay contest that I entered will be announced today. _____
6. Cans, shoes, and clothing are among the things that goats will nibble. _____
7. A man who lived in this town sailed his little boat across the Atlantic. _____
8. The llama which is a member of the camel family is found in South America. _____
9. Marla called the girls she had selected for the team. _____
10. Those friends usually meet at a storefront cafe where the food is cheap. _____

Adjective and Adverb Clauses*Application***A. Using Essential and Nonessential Clauses in Writing**

Combine each numbered pair of sentences to form one sentence containing an adjective clause that modifies the boldfaced word. If the clause is nonessential, add commas. If the clause is essential, do not add commas.

1. **Ms. Lopez** is a coach. She is always fair and helpful.

2. I have seen that **movie** five times. That is my favorite movie.

3. The **city** is growing rapidly. I visited the city last summer.

4. I read a book about **Albert Einstein**. He was a brilliant scientist.

5. The **Big Dipper** can help you find your way at night. It is a constellation with seven stars.

B. Using Adjective and Adverb Clauses

Rewrite each of the following sentences, adding an adjective or adverb clause that begins with the word in parentheses. Set off with commas any adverb clause that comes at the beginning or the middle of the sentence, and any nonessential adjective clause.

1. The boys ran into the building. (Use *where*.)

2. I've already searched for an hour! (Use *where*.)

3. The book has finally been returned to the library. (Use *that*.)

4. The squirrel ran up the tree. (Use *which*.)

5. The squirrel ran up the tree. (Use *before*.)

6. Nobody may enter this room. (Use *after*.)
