

Adjective Clauses

Making Your Sentences More Complex

Rush University Center for Academic Excellence

Review

Q: What's an adjective clause?

A: An adjective clause functions like an adjective—it gives more information about a noun.

Q: Which words does it begin with?



A: A relative clause always begins with a “relative pronoun,” which substitutes for a noun or a pronoun.

Q: What are the relative pronouns?

A: The relative pronouns are:

who	for people	can substitute for subject nouns/pronouns (he, she, we, they)
whom	for people	can substitute for object nouns/pronouns (him, her, us, them)
whose	for people	can substitute for possessive nouns/pronouns (his, hers, our, their)
that	for people or things	can be either subject or object can only be used in restrictive relative clauses (see below)
which	for things	can be either subject or object can be used in non-restrictive relative clauses can also be used in restrictive relative clauses, though some people don't like this use

Now, let's practice and review!

- ❖ If you have the same cards, you are partners.
- ❖ Get into partner pairs.
- ❖ Each pair will receive relative pronoun cards.
- ❖ Read each sentence, and decide among yourselves which pronoun you should use.
- ❖ Ask yourselves this: "Is it a subject or an object?"

I like the person _____ was nice to me.



I like the person **who** was nice to me.



I hate the dog _____bit me.

I hate the dog **that** bit me.



I like the bike_____ my father gave me.

I like the bike **that** my father gave me.



Students _____ grades are low
should always talk to the teacher before
midterm.

Students **whose** grades are low
should always talk to the teacher
before midterm.



I like the paintings _____
hang in the Art Institute.

I like the paintings **that** hang in the Art Institute.


I like the paintings **which** hang in the Art Institute.

- “**Which**” is acceptable, but some people object to using “**which**” in a restrictive relative clause. “**That**” is preferred.
- I like the paintings **that** hang in the Art Institute, **which** is a neoclassical-style building with columns in the front.

I hope I hear from the
person with _____ I
spent hours talking last
night.



I hope I hear from the
person with **whom** I spent hours
talking last night.
(Formal)

I hope to hear from the person
whom I spent hours talking  **with**
last night.
(Less formal)

I hope to hear from the person **who**
I spent hours talking **with/to** last
night.

(Conversational speech)

Group 1 (Restrictive Clauses - No Commas)

These include **necessary/essential** information after the pronouns.

All students **who** do their **work** should pass easily.

The car **that** I **want** is out of my price range.



Students **who** study **hard** will do well in my class.

The person **whom** you **kissed** was Lionel Messi.

Group 2 (Non-Restrictive Clause - With Commas)

These include extra, non-essential pieces of information.

I am moving to Louisville, KY, **which** is home to the Muhammad Ali Museum.

Edgar Allan Poe, **who** wrote "The Raven," is a great American poet.



Puerto Rico was a Spanish colony until 1898, **when** it was made part of the United States.

My mother, **who** is an excellent cook, is thinking of opening a restaurant.

Group 2, cont.

I'm planning to grow roses, **which** I find quite beautiful.

I'm driving across the country with three small children, **which** is going to be stressful.



France, **which** is located in Western Europe, has a long cultural history.

Example: Lady Gaga

The woman, **who** is wearing the crazy dress, is Lady Gaga.

























© 2015 COPYRIGHT OVALPICTURE.COM ALL RIGHTS RESERVED, DESIGN : YASSER FARAHY







