

Adjective (Relative) Clause

Introduction

1) A dependent (subordinate) clause gives additional information to the main sentence, thus it cannot stand alone as a separate sentence.

When she comes back home after a long day at work, she likes to take a bath.

2) An adjective clause is a dependent clause that modifies nouns or pronouns providing additional information.

*The house **where we were born** was demolished last month. (the adjective clause modifies the noun 'house')*

An adjective clause can begin with words such as *that, who, whom, whose, which, when, where, and why*.

*Children **whose parents spend a lot of time with them** are bound to be happier.*

There are two types of adjective clauses:

a) a restrictive (essential) adjective clause provides information that is necessary to distinguish the modified word, thus it cannot be omitted. These clauses usually begin with *that* and are not set off with commas.

*The English course **that Ann takes** is aimed at written skills. (There are different types of English courses, but the peculiarity of the course that Ann takes is that it is aimed at written skills.)*

b) a nonrestrictive (nonessential) adjective clause provides additional information, thus it can be omitted without any loss of meaning. These clauses usually begin with *which* and are always set off with commas.

*Bananas, **which I eat daily**, are packed with nutrients and vitamins. (Bananas are very healthy. **By the way, I eat them every day.** → This additional information doesn't change the fact that bananas are healthy.)*

Short Story Dialogue

– The gym **where I spend most of my free time** is closing down in 3 weeks. Do you know any other cheap facility like that nearby?

– Gyms, **which are almost everywhere nowadays**, aren't that expensive. I'd recommend looking for one online though. I go to the gym **that is located at my office building**, so I've never really researched any other options.

– Yeah, I'd like to find a place **where additional classes are offered**. Maybe, yoga, or aerobics?

Independent Practice - Adjective (Relative) Clause

1) Underline adjective clauses.

- a. That time when we got lost I got really scared.
- b. The reason why Olly quit his job seemed made-up.
- c. Anything that is grown organically is quite expensive.
- d. I wouldn't trust a hairdresser whose hairstyle is not stylish.
- e. My parents love talking about the days when there was no Internet.
- f. Our company needs someone who has 5 years of experience in this field.

2) Write 2 sentences with restrictive clauses and 2 sentences with nonrestrictive ones.

a.
b.
c.
d.

Independent Practice: Answers - Adjective (Relative) Clause

1) Underline adjective clauses.

- a. That time when we got lost I got really scared.
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2) Write 2 sentences with restrictive clauses and 2 sentences with nonrestrictive ones. Sample Answers:

- a. This is the reason why Peter didn't show up.
- b. Do you remember my birthday when we spent the whole night celebrating outside?
- c. Emma, who is Mike's sister, will go to the concert with us.
- d. Vegetables, which kids don't really like, are vital for us.