

## ESL95: Editing with adjective clauses - ANSWERS

Combine the following sentences and use an adjective clause.

1. (a) As a formerly incarcerated person, I believe this move is a positive one.  
(b) I am now an endocrinologist and professor at two world-renowned medical institutions.

*As a formerly incarcerated person WHO IS now an endocrinologist and professor at two world-renowned medical institutions, I believe this move is a positive one.*

*Comma needed – the author is referring to himself, so the clause is not identifying him.*

2. (a) The organization helped push for the change on the Common Application.  
(b) I lead the organization.  
(c) It is called From Prison Cells to PhD.

*The organization WHICH/THAT I lead, which is called From Prison Cells to PhD, helped push for the change on the Common Application.*

*A+ B No commas – the clause is defining the organization and the name. Notice that the second adjective clause is defining the whole phrase “the organization that I lead”.*

*B+C = commas needed – THE organization refers to a specific organization*

3. (a) A person could become tomorrow’s medical doctor.  
(b) They once sold illegal drugs on the street.

*A person WHO once sold illegal drugs on the street could become tomorrow’s medical doctor.*

*No commas – the adjective clause is defining which kind of person.*

4. (a) I now help train students.

(b) They want to be doctors.

*I now help train students **WHO/THAT** want to be doctors.*

*WHO is more common in academic writing.*

*No commas – the adjective clause is defining which students.*

5. (a) Although I was a successful student athlete and received a near full scholarship to play football for Lindenwood University, I found it difficult to get out of the rug business.

(b) The school is a Division II college football program.

*Although I was a successful student athlete and received a near full scholarship to play football for Lindenwood University, WHICH is a Division II college football program, I found it difficult to get out of the rug business.*

*THAT cannot be used here – no commas with THAT*

*Commas needed – the head noun, Lindenwood University, is a specific name.*

6. (a) Suffice it to say, there were people in the drug world.

(b) They wanted me to keep moving drugs.

*Suffice it to say, there were people in the drug world WHO/THAT wanted me to keep moving drugs.*

*Notice that the adjective clause modifies the whole head phrase “people in the drug world”. If you put the clause next to people, IN THE DRUG WORLD modifies DRUGS instead of PEOPLE, which does not communicate the same idea.*

*WHO is more common in academic writing*

*No commas – the adjective clause is defining which people*

7. (a) A 2003 analysis of several studies found that obtaining higher education reduced recidivism by 43 percent.

(b) It is the rate of returning to prison.

*A 2003 analysis of several studies found that obtaining higher education reduced recidivism by 43 percent, WHICH is the rate of returning to prison.*

*Commas needed – the head noun, 43 percent, is a specific idea*

*THAT cannot be used here – no commas with THAT*

8. (a) Nearly 30 percent of America's incarcerated are released each year.

(b) It is about 690,000 people.

*Nearly 30 percent of America's incarcerated, WHICH is about 690,000 people, are released each year.*

*Commas needed – the head noun, 30 percent, is a specific idea*

9. (a) I was rejected from all but one school.

(b) It was Saint Louis University.

*I was rejected from all but one school, WHICH was Saint Louis University.*

*Comma needed - ONE SCHOOL is referring to a specific school.*

*THAT cannot be used here – no commas with THAT*

10. (a) I had a mentor from Saint Louis University.

(b) He served on the admissions committee.

*I had a mentor from Saint Louis University WHO/THAT served on the admissions committee.*

*No comma – the adjective clause is defining which mentor.*

WHO is more common in academic writing.

*Notice that the adjective clause modifies the whole head phrase “a mentor from Saint Louis University”. If you put the clause next to mentor, FROM SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY modifies COMMITTEE instead of MENTOR, which does not communicate the same idea.*

11. (a) There are things that should be done to remove barriers for incarcerated or formerly incarcerated people.

(b) They wish to pursue higher education.

*There are things that should be done to remove barriers for incarcerated or formerly incarcerated people WHO/THAT wish to pursue higher education.*

*WHO is more common in academic writing*

*No commas – the adjective clause is defining which people*

12. (a) When the government removed Pell funding from prisons by issuing the "tough on crime" Law Enforcement Act of 1994, the vast majority of colleges stopped.

(b) They were offering courses in prison.

*When the government removed Pell funding from prisons by issuing the "tough on crime" Law Enforcement Act of 1994, the vast majority of colleges WHICH/THAT were offering courses in prison stopped.*

*No commas needed – the clause is defining which colleges*

13. (a) However, the current Second Chance Pell pilot funding accounts for 0.1 percent of the total \$28 billion of Pell funding is being directed to prisons.

(b) It is being directed to prisons.

(3) It is \$30 million.

*However, the current Second Chance Pell pilot funding WHICH/THAT is being directed to prisons WHICH/THAT is \$30 million, accounts for 0.1 percent of the total \$28 billion of Pell funding.*

*A+B no commas needed – the head phrase is defining what part of the funding is being directed*

*B+C commas needed – it is not defining the funding – it is just giving more information about the amount of money*

14. (a) A 2015 study found that nearly 66 percent of would-be graduates did not finish their application.

(b) They disclosed a conviction on their college application.

***A 2015 study found that nearly 66 percent of would-be graduates WHO/THAT disclosed a conviction on their college application did not finish their application.***

***No commas needed – defining which graduates WHO is more common in academic writing***