

Four rules to remember about Adjective Clauses

1. Position: The adjective clause must be directly next to the head noun or head noun phrase

a. **The head noun should agree with the verb in the adjective clause** and the main verb.

a. The **trees** which is in my yard is tall.

☒ The **trees** which **ARE** in my yard **ARE** tall.

2. The head noun should not be repeated with a pronoun in the adjective clause.

a. I have a **dog** that **it** likes to bark.

☒ I have a dog that likes to bark.

3. You need a complete independent clause; there cannot be two verbs in a sentence without a connector word or marker word.

a. There **are** many **children need** help. --> There are many children **WHO** need help.

4. There must be two verbs in a sentence with an adjective clause. This is because there must be a verb in both the independent clause and the dependent clause.

a. Some teachers **who have a lot of classes**.

☒ **Some teachers** who have a lot of classes **take a long time to grade papers**.

Practice with Adjective Clause Rules

Put a BOX around each adjective clause marker word or phrase. Then make any corrections necessary to create a complete sentence.

1. At the school, there were many students were running on the playground.
2. Fred enjoyed the gift which Alice made it for him.
3. There were several people on the list who was waiting to get into the class.
4. Almost all of the students are in History 102 took History 101 last semester.
5. Sarah from my ESL class who her children were late to the graduation ceremony felt disappointed.

Practice Identifying Adjective Clause Errors

Put (PARENTHESES) around the adjective clauses here. Is the sentence complete or incomplete? If it is incomplete, add or delete information to create a complete sentence.

1. The students who attend this college.
2. I love going to the movies very much which is fun and relaxing.
3. Whose teacher is very strict.
4. We ate some delicious rice which were seasoned very well.
5. The reading which is not difficult it is very long.
6. My classmates are friendly that are studying with me this semester.
7. The library is perfect for people who likes to relax.

Practice Editing with Adjective Clauses

- a. **Combine the sentences using an Adjective Clause**
- b. **Decide whether the clause is Defining/Identifying (no commas) or Non-Defining/Non-Identifying (commas)**

1. The soup was delicious. I made it from scratch.
2. My son has finished his assignments already. He is usually a procrastinator.
3. Todd has a friend. Laura introduced the friend to him.
4. Rachel was very sad. Her best friend had moved to another city.
5. I enjoy meeting new people. They have interesting stories to tell about their lives.

Identifying/Defining or Non-Identifying/Non-Defining?

- **Underline the adjective clause**
- **Decide whether the clause is Defining/Identifying (no commas) or Non-Defining/Non-Identifying (commas)**

Example to try together: Tom who lives next door to me is a great neighbor.

1. My dog who died last year was the best dog a person could ever have.
2. The assignment that I did for Economics class was very interesting.
3. New Mexico which is a U.S. state is not the same as the country of Mexico.
4. The woman who helped me at the bank was very rude.
5. John and Ted whom I met at the airport were travelling to California.
6. The soup which is in the refrigerator is for dinner. Don't eat it!
7. Soup which is a food found in every culture can have vastly different ingredients depending on the country in which it is made.