

# ADJECTIVE CLAUSES

## I. DEFINITIONS -

- A. **INDEPENDENT CLAUSE** - a complete sentence containing a subject & verb

I thanked the woman that helped me.  
(independent clause)

- B. **DEPENDENT CLAUSE** - an INCOMPLETE sentence usually introduced by a RELATIVE PRONOUN (who(m), which, that, whose) that must be connected to an independent clause

I thanked my mother, who helped me clean the house.  
(dependent clause)

## C. **ADJECTIVE CLAUSE**

- a dependent clause that must be joined to an independent clause
- modifies a noun. It describes, identifies, or gives further information about a noun.
- begins with a relative pronoun (who, whom, whose, which, that)
- placed in a sentence right after the noun they describe
- RESTRICTIVE adjective clauses are those that are necessary to identify the noun they modify:
  1. use the relative pronoun THAT instead of *who* or *which*
  2. do NOT use a comma to separate the adjective clause
- NONRESTRICTIVE adjective clauses simply give additional information about the noun they modify & must be separated from the rest of the sentence by commas.

EXAMPLES: NONRESTRICTIVE ADJECTIVE CLAUSES

My BMW, which I bought last year, needs a tune-up.  
(adjective clause)

I thanked my mother, who helped me clean the house.  
(adjective clause)

Professor Wilson, who teaches chemistry 101, is an excellent lecturer.  
(adjective clause)

Hawaii, which consists of eight principal islands, is a favorite vacation spot.  
(adjective clause)

EXAMPLES: RESTRICTIVE ADJECTIVE CLAUSES

The woman that cleans my house is my aunt.  
(adjective clause)

The car that I drive to work needs a tune-up.  
(adjective clause)

The professor who teaches chemistry 101 is an excellent lecturer.  
(adjective clause)

The box which I gave to Maria contains an expensive gift.  
(adjective clause)

## II. Relative Pronouns - SUBJECT of the Adjective Clause

### A. RELATIVE PRONOUNS

<b>WHO</b>	=	<b>people</b>	(nonrestrictive clauses only)
<b>WHICH</b>	=	<b>things</b>	(nonrestrictive clauses only)
<b>THAT</b>	=	<b>people &amp; things</b>	(restrictive clauses only)

### B. EXAMPLE #1

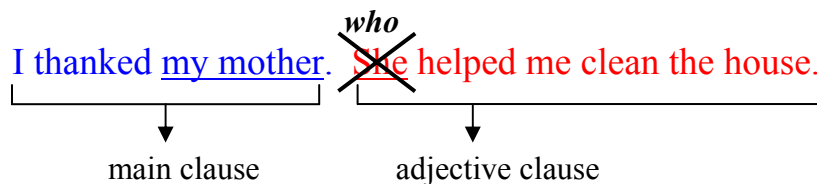
- *I thanked my mother. She helped me clean the house*

1. identify the common word in both sentences

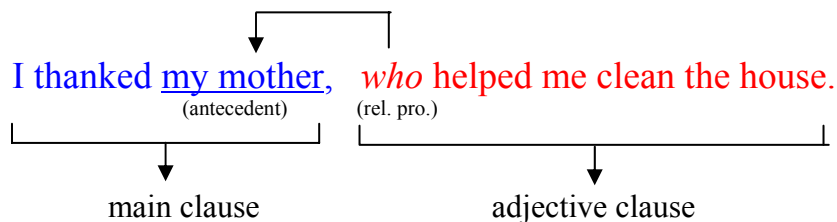
(I thanked my mother. She helped me clean the house.)

2. Since the 2nd sentence will become the adjective clause, 1) remove the common word from the 2nd sentence and 2) replace it with the correct relative pronoun.

Remember!!! You're replacing the subject of the sentence & it's a person. Thus, choose a relative pronoun that acts as a subject, is a person, & is compatible with a nonrestrictive clause.



3. The adjective clause immediately follows its antecedent (the noun the relative pronoun modifies)



## B. EXAMPLE #2

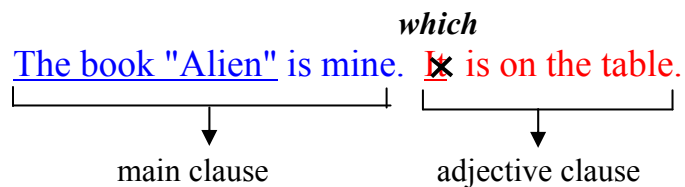
- *The book "Alien" is on the table. It is mine.*

1. identify the common word in both sentences

(The book "Alien" is mine. It is on the table.)

2. Since the 2nd sentence will become the adjective clause, 1) remove the common word from the 2nd sentence and 2) replace it with the correct relative pronoun.

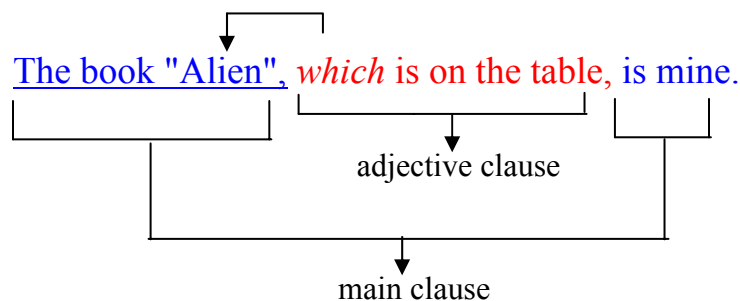
Remember!!! You're replacing the subject of the sentence & it's a thing. Thus, you must choose a relative pronoun that acts as a subject, is a thing, & is compatible with a nonrestrictive clause.



3. The adjective clause immediately follows its antecedent. (the noun the relative pronoun modifies)

The book "Alien", which is on the table, is mine.

(antecedent)                      (rel. pro.)



### III. Relative Pronouns - OBJECT of the Adjective Clause

#### A. RELATIVE PRONOUNS

<b>WHO(M)</b>	=	<b>people</b>	(nonrestrictive clauses only)
<b>WHICH</b>	=	<b>things</b>	(nonrestrictive clauses only)
<b>THAT</b>	=	<b>people &amp; things</b>	(restrictive clauses only)
$\emptyset$	=	<b>people &amp; things</b>	(restrictive clauses only)

#### B. EXAMPLE #1

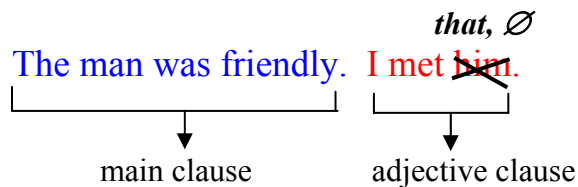
- *The man was friendly. I met him.*

1. identify the common word in both sentences

(The man was friendly. I met him.)

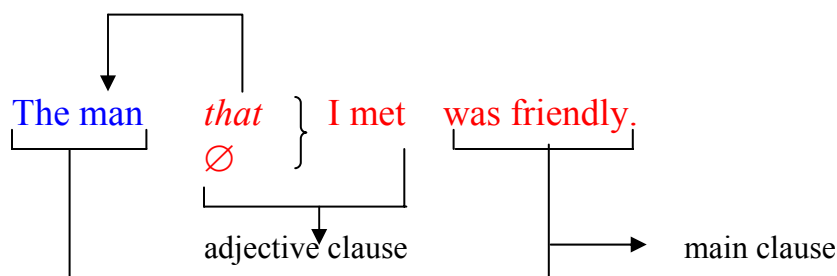
2. Since the 2nd sentence will become the adjective clause, 1) remove the common word from the 2nd sentence and 2) replace it with the correct relative pronoun.

Remember!!! You're replacing the object of the sentence & it's a person, so you must choose a relative pronoun that acts as an object, is a person & is compatible with a restrictive clause



3. The adjective clause immediately follows its antecedent (the noun the relative pronoun modifies)

The man *that* } I met was friendly.  
(ant.)  $\emptyset$  }  
(rel. pro.)



## B. EXAMPLE #2

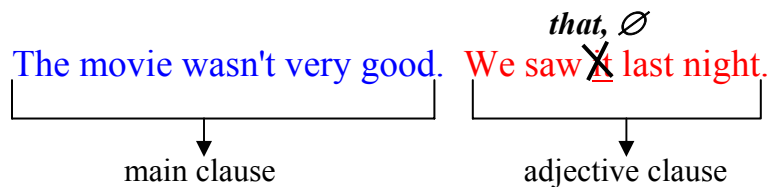
- *The movie wasn't very good. We saw it last night*

2. identify the common word in both sentences

(The movie wasn't very good. We saw it last night.)

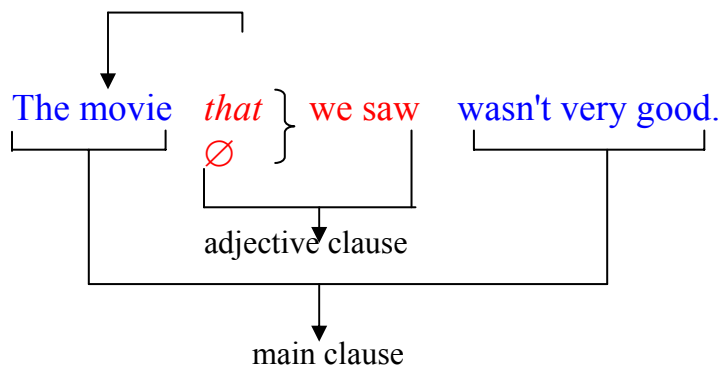
2. Since the 2nd sentence will become the adjective clause, 1) remove the common word from the 2nd sentence and 2) replace it with the correct relative pronoun.

Remember!!! You're replacing the object of the sentence & it's a thing. Thus, you must choose a relative pronoun that acts as an object, is a thing, & is compatible with a restrictive clause.



3. The adjective clause immediately follows its antecedent.  
(the noun the relative pronoun modifies)

The movie *that* } we saw wasn't very good.  
(ant.) (rel. pro.)



## IV. Relative Pronouns - POSSESSION

### A. Relative Pronoun - *WHOSE*

### B. EXAMPLE

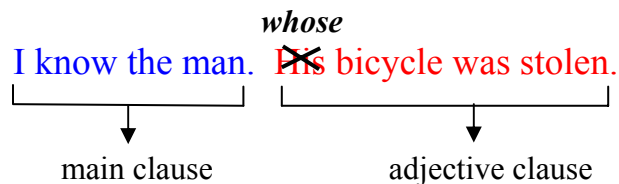
- *I know the man. His bicycle was stolen.*

1. identify the common word in both sentences

(I know the man. His bicycle was stolen.)

2. Since the 2nd sentence will become the adjective clause, 1) remove the common word from the 2nd sentence and 2) replace it with the correct relative pronoun.

Remember!!! You're replacing the possessive in the sentence so you must choose a relative pronoun that denotes possession.



3. The adjective clause immediately follows its antecedent (the noun the relative pronoun modifies)

I know the man whose bicycle was stolen.  
(ant.)      (rel. pro.)

